

MEDIA RELEASE
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WASO's 90th Anniversary Gala **Wagner's Tristan und Isolde**



Gun-Brit Barkmin to replace Eva-Maria Westbroek in the upcoming WASO performances of Wagner's Tristan und Isolde

Internationally-acclaimed soprano, Gun-Brit Barkmin, will step into the role of Isolde for WASO in the 90th Anniversary Gala performances of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* following the news that Dutch soprano, Eva-Maria Westbroek, has been forced to withdraw from her engagement due to illness.

"While we are devastated for Eva-Maria, we are delighted that an artist of Gun-Brit's calibre is able to step into these performances at such short notice." says WASO Principal Conductor Asher Fisch. The German-born soprano previously sang the role of Isolde in the critically-acclaimed Graz Opera production in 2016.

Gun-Brit Barkmin has built her reputation on exciting portrayals of some of opera's most complex leading ladies, including Salome, Chrysothemis (Elektra) and Marie (Wozzeck). She has cultivated strong relationships with several major European theatres including the Vienna State Opera and Hamburg State Opera and enjoys ongoing collaborations with many of the world's top conductors including Andris Nelsons, Semyon Bychkov, Fabio Luisi and Vladimir Jurowski. She has also appeared at major festivals including the Salzburg Festival and the BBC Proms.

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