

## **Press Release**

1 June 2015

### **Strong visual impression: light art project at the “Jerusalem Festival of Light” “Leipzig Week” with a varied cultural programme**

This year, Israel and Germany celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Leipzig participates with a number of projects in the transnational programme on the occasion of the anniversary. A highlight of the calendar of events is the Leipzig Week from 4 to 10 June in Jerusalem, an integrative part of which is a contribution to the simultaneously held 7th Jerusalem Festival of Light where more than 300,000 visitors are expected.

#### **“Hope and Disappointment” at the “Festival of Light” in Jerusalem**

At the Jerusalem Festival of Light from 3 to 11 June, light artists from all around the world will set the Old City of Jerusalem ablaze with their light installations. Jürgen Meier, artistic director of the Leipzig Festival of Lights, will be among them for the first time. He will project his artwork of light and music onto the façade of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. The installation titled “Hope and Disappointment” is already known to the guests of last year’s Leipzig Festival of Lights: On 9 October 2014, it illuminated the three churches along the Leipzig inner ring road. “The video installation 'Hope and Disappointment' shows a waterfall flowing out of a church. Its imagery addresses the religiously anchored meaning of water as a source of life,” explains Ms. Marit Schulz, authorised signatory at LTM GmbH and head of the Leipzig Festival of Lights.

Due to the consistency of the subject, the decision for the contribution from Leipzig was apparently made very quickly, according to Provost Wolfgang Schmidt, pastor at the Church of the Redeemer. “The mood of the people of this city and its surroundings has oscillated between hope and disappointment for decades. Hope for peace, disappointment over missed opportunities to preserve it, dashed hopes for recognition of self-determination for all in this deeply divided country. This topic is our

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permanent companion within the sphere of politics. I think that this project on the walls of our church in the middle of the Old City of Jerusalem will leave a strong visual impression,” Provost Schmidt says.

A special feature for the Jerusalem Festival of Light will be the music that light artist Jürgen Meier selected as intonation to “Hope and Disappointment”: Felix Mendelssohn’s Octet in E flat major, opus 20. This work will also be performed during the Leipzig Week on 6 June at the Chapel of St. John in the cloister of the priory.

**For further information: [www.lights-in-jerusalem.com](http://www.lights-in-jerusalem.com)**

### **Close collaboration: The “Leipzig Week”**

The performance at the Festival of Light is part of the Leipzig Week organised by Kulturstiftung Leipzig in cooperation with the city administration. From 4 to 10 June, the agenda boasts several contributions planned in collaboration with our partners in Jerusalem including: an organ concert performed by the musical director of Leipzig University, David Timm, a cabaret show with Meigl Hoffmann and Karsten Wolf, the re-design of the green space at the entrance to the Church of the Ascension on the Mount of Olives, a photo exhibition of the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography with pictures of Palestine around 1900 and a concert by the orchestra of the academic music high school “Schloss Belvedere” from Weimar with works by Felix Mendelssohn. Dr. Wolfgang Hocquél, managing director of Kulturstiftung Leipzig, considers the program design a labour of love. “I have had a very close and friendly relationship with the local Lutheran congregation for years. During the Leipzig Week, we will jointly promote culture - one of the most pleasant ways of international cooperation,” according to Dr. Hocquél.

### **Other events and presentations in Leipzig and Israel**

At the end of the year, finally, the St Thomas Choir travels to Israel. During the guest performances between 4 and 8 December in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Herzliya, the choir performs together with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra Johann Sebastian Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

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In Leipzig too, there are numerous events emphasising the anniversary “50 Years of German-Israeli Diplomatic Relations”: During the “Jewish Week” (28 June to 5 July), at a Shabbat service open to the public (3 July) and at the Leipzig Opera Ball themed “Shalom Israel” (31 October), the city shows its close ties.

**Photographs on offer (printable format, to be ordered free of charge)**



Light and sound installation "Hope and Disappointment" by Jürgen Meier. Leipzig Festival of Lights 2014  
(Source: LTM / Westend-PR)

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Festival of Light 2014 – View of the Old City (Source: Shmuel Cohen photo agency)



Festival of Light 2014 - Light installation at the Church of the Redeemer (Source: Jerusalem Church of the Redeemer)



Overlooking Jerusalem with the Church of the Redeemer (Source: Jerusalem Church of the Redeemer)

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