

Kongresshaus Zürich AG und Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG

## Tonhalle and Kongresshaus Zürich officially inaugurated

Zurich, 6 September 2021 – Over the weekend, around 5,000 people visited the Tonhalle and Kongresshaus Zürich for the opening festivities – after four years of renovations. Due to Covid safety concepts, the event could only be attended via time slots, which were rapidly booked up. However, anyone who had no luck obtaining a ticket will nonetheless have access to a detailed virtual impression of the splendid building complex and its history, thanks to the Google Arts & Culture platform.

At last: the Tonhalle and Kongresshaus Zürich have been officially inaugurated. Celebrations were held before selected guests on Thursday evening, and approximately 5,000 visitors were able to take a closer look at the Tonhalle and Kongresshaus Zürich's renovated premises over the weekend. They also learnt about the complex's chequered history: the visit included a museum tour including audio guides, various event and congress scenarios, live music performed by ensembles consisting of members of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, as well as a foretaste of the gastronomic delights a Food Village has to offer. «It's like coming home,» said Franziska Bühler, a long-time visitor. And Urs Amiet, an art lover: «I'm thrilled to be back here.»

## Innovative virtual visit for the reopening

For the Tonhalle and Kongresshaus Zürich reopening, the complex can also be visited virtually. Google introduces an innovative new feature for the complex – the option of virtually discovering several highlights of the restored premises via the <u>Google Arts & Culture</u> platform. Visitors can thus stroll through the Tonhalle and Kongresshaus Zürich using Google online. In eight online exhibitions consisting of texts, images and video footage featured on Google, visitors will be able to admire the concert hall's famous, freshly restored ceiling paintings as well as the rich ornamentation that lends the Tonhalle its very special allure. Thanks to the partnership between the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich, the Kongresshaus Zürich, Denkmalpflege des Kantons Zürich (Department for the Preservation of Historical Monuments of the Canton of Zurich), Amt für Hochbauten (Office for Structural Engineering of the City of Zurich), and Google, over 225 photos, some of them historical, have been made digitally accessible, providing insights into the building's eventful history. Users can visit these virtual exhibitions free of charge.

The Kongresshaus is also taking a further step into the virtual world with a digital twin of the building, which will be launched on kongresshaus.ch in the next few days.

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