

MEDIENINFORMATION

Cologne, 26 July 2019

Arnd Richter named new manager of the WDR Big Band

Arnd Richter (59) will be taking over management of the Grammy award-winning WDR Big Band as of 1 September 2019. He follows Friederike Darius, who will be devoting herself to new musical challenges in the Netherlands.

“I am happy to have acquired Arnd Richter as manager – his knowledge of music goes far beyond that of jazz, and he is used to thinking outside the box,” said Dr Christoph Stahl, manager of the WDR Orchestra and Choir department.

Arnd Richter is from Cologne. After completing his Abitur, he studied school music, German studies, philosophy and musicology at Cologne’s academy of music and at the University of Cologne. From 1978 he worked as a freelance music journalist for a number of print media, including FAZ, Fonoforum, Jazzthetik and Jazzpodium, as well as for public service radio. In 1990-91 he completed a programme traineeship at Westdeutscher Rundfunk. Richter has been a permanent member of staff at WDR since 1992, working as an editor in a variety of tasks. In July 2015 he was appointed team leader of *Musik aktuell* and deputy head of the programme group *Kultur und Musik aktuell* WDR 3.

Thanks to his many years of work at WDR, he has known the WDR Big Band for quite some time and is therefore all the more delighted to be managing the renowned jazz band in future. “Whether in concert, on the radio or on television, the energetic performances of the WDR Big Band have thrilled me for decades. In this respect, I am very happy to be able to work together in future with these excellent musicians and a well-functioning team behind the scenes. During my many years as a radio man at WDR, I have intensively followed trends in the media world. I perceive it as a great challenge to continue to lead the band into a digital future, with the job of winning over new groups of listeners for our music and surprising our existing audience time and again with creative and innovative projects.”

US American Bob Mintzer has been chief conductor of the WDR Big Band since summer 2016. Vince Mendoza, as Composer in Residence, is associated with the WDR Big Band.

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