

## Then and now – an overview

### 1909 – 1914 **Hellerau makes the grade**

- 1909 The non-profit Gartenstadt Hellerau GmbH and the housing association Baugenossenschaft Hellerau eGmbH are founded thanks in part to the vision of the craftsman and entrepreneur Karl Schmidt, the idea being to offer workers living at the Garden City a musical education.
- 1910 Committee formed to establish a Jaques-Dalcroze music school (Émile Jaques-Dalcroze, Adolphe Appia, Alexander von Salzmänn and Heinrich Tessenow), financed by the brothers Wolf and Harald Dohrn.
- 1911 Foundation stone ceremony for the music school. Lessons already begin in the November. Homes for teachers and a guesthouse added.
- 1912 / 1913 Hellerau Festival Theatre opens; world première of Paul Claudel's "L'Annonce faite à Marie". Many well-known figures from the European avant-garde art scene travel to Hellerau to see it, giving the school its reputation as a festival theatre.
- 1914 Tram route to Hellerau completed.  
The school closes until the end of the First World War. Formation of a "Founding Committee for an Association to Preserve the Jaques Dalcroze Method in Germany" and of a "Hellerau Association for Teaching Rhythmics and Music", made up of the teachers and students remaining in Hellerau.

### 1915 – 1925 **Hellerau brings schools, culture and people together**

- 1915 Émile Jaques-Dalcroze School of Music and Rhythm files for bankruptcy; renamed Bildungsanstalt Hellerau GmbH and limited to property management, under the direction of Harald Dohrn.  
  
"New School of Applied Rhythm" founded by the Hellerau Association for Teaching Rhythmics and Music.
- 1919 The Festival Theatre is empty. To bring the grounds back to life, Harald Dohrn moves the community of craftspeople founded by the architect Heinrich Tessenow into the halls of residence.  
  
Former Dalcroze students found the New School for Rhythm, Music and Physical Education.
- 1920 Founding of the reformatory Hellerau New School (a private school)

- 1921 Bruno Tanzmann organises the “First Germanic Agricultural Schools Day” at the Festival Theatre.
- Foundation of the “Summerhill” school of democratic education, as part of the New School, by the progressive British educator A. S. Neill. Three New School departments (Rhythmics section, German section and foreign section) cooperate throughout the Festival Theatre grounds.
- 1923 The “International School” suffers from a lack of pupils during the Ruhr crisis. The department officially closes in 1924, when the Saxon government is forcefully removed.
- Alois Schardt, the then headmaster of the New School, develops an exhibition on Expressionist painting, accompanied by art history lectures.
- 1925 The „New School for Rhythm, Music and Physical Education“ moves to Laxenberg, near Vienna.
- The Mathilde Zimmer Foundation opens in the guesthouse rooms, known as the „Rietschel-Schilling House“.
- 1926 – 1939 Upheaval during the Nazi era**
- 1926 Dissolution of Tessenow’s community of craftspeople (leaving behind a small printing house in a student residence).
- 1929 Opening of a State Welfare School for the Saxon State Welfare Foundation.
- 1931 Dora Menzler rents space for her school for gymnastics, the poetry of motion and musical education.
- 1932 Alfred Reucker makes efforts to revive the Festival Theatre as a performance venue, e.g. as a rehearsals stage for Dresden State Opera House. The performance of the opera “Iphigénie en Aulide” by Christoph Willibald Gluck is a great success.
- 1933 Reucker is relieved of his post by the National Socialists. The other organisations all also leave the building. Until 1936, the school rents out its rooms to the “German Air Sports Association”. The Festival Theatre is empty.
- 1934 The Festival Theatre is the venue for the first “Reich Theatre Week”.
- 1935 State Welfare School ordered to close. Harald Dohrn sells his shares in the school and leaves Hellerau.
- 1938 The state buys the Festival Theatre grounds for 430,000 Reichsmark. The theatre is converted into a police college.
- 1939 Student residences demolished and barracks constructed. Later used by the Red Army as a military hospital and barracks.

## 1940 – 1990 **Military occupation**

1945 The Festspielhaus site is converted as barracks for the Soviet army. It became the home for constantly several hundred Soviet soldiers, officers and civilians. In case of unrest they were ready for immediate abatement.

The Great Hall served as a gymnasium for the Soviets.

The site was still closed to the public.

During this period, the history of the site was hidden.

1979 The Belarusian Michail Worobey, who served as a military artist in Dresden, created two huge wall paintings in both staircases.

## 1991 – 2008 **Restoration and return of artists and culture**

1991 Founding of a friends association for the Hellerau European Workshop for Art and Culture.

1992/1993 Grounds stop being used for military purposes and become the property of the Free State of Saxony.

Dresden's Staatsschauspiel playhouse organises the first "Great Festival" on the theatre forecourt.

Restoration starts on what were once the teachers' homes on the east side.

Second "Great Festival", focusing on performance art; a third follows a year later.

1996 Guesthouses renovated and roof rebuilt.

1997 The Festival Theatre is added to the World Monuments Fund List of 100 Most Endangered Sites. The craftspeople's association Deutscher Werkbund Sachsen e.V. and the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony move into the eastern guesthouses.

Founding of Festspielhaus Hellerau GmbH by the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony, the Heinrich Tessenow Foundation and the Friends Association for a European Workshop for Art and Culture.

Deutscher Werksbund Sachsen e.V. moves its offices to the eastern guesthouse building.

2001 Renovation starts on the western wing.

Detlev Schneider, committee representative for the European Workshop, fails to be re-elected after 10 years as the Festival Theatre's artistic director.

2002 Trans-Media-Akademie e.V. and the Dresden Centre for Contemporary Music move in.

2003 The DEREVO dance theatre, which has been active in Dresden for

years, moves into the Festival Theatre grounds.

2004 Dresden Centre for Contemporary Music becomes the Hellerau European Centre for the Arts, founded by theatre manager Udo Zimmermann. The City of Dresden becomes the sponsor for the site.

Contract concluded with the Forsythe Company GmbH ballet company

2005 Renovation begins on the Festival Theatre interior; founding of the Hellerau friends' association for the restoration of the Festival Theatre grounds.

2006 Opening ceremony following the completion of the interior restoration with "Fanfanfaren" (fanfares for four trumpets) by Mauricio Kagel in a version specially arranged for Hellerau.

Renamed "HELLERAU – European Centre for the Arts, Dresden"

2008 Udo Zimmermann's time as artistic director comes to an end.

## **2009 – 2018 HELLERAU sparkles**

2009 Centenary of Hellerau Garden City and start of year-round performances at the Festival Theatre with Dieter Jaenicke as artistic director.

2014 Renovation completed on the western wing. Ten artists' apartments are created, plus a rehearsals stage on the top floor.

2015 Hellerau e.V. friends' association sets up an intercultural garden (Golgi Park); a family of Syrian refugees are housed in one of the artists' apartments.

The Forsythe Company GmbH changes its name to the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company.

2016 Conference against racism and xenophobia; keynote speaker is Martin Schulz (President of the European Parliament)

2018 Dieter Jaenicke's time as artistic director comes to an end; Carena Schlewitt takes up the baton.

The DEREVO dance theatre leaves HELLERAU.

Restoration of the eastern wing is planned.