

Nordic Swans



Baltic Sea
Philharmonic

Tour
2022

Let us take you on a flight of imagination,
as we perform every piece from memory and
create a unique concert experience.

23 March 2022, 8pm
Queen Elisabeth Hall, Antwerp (Belgium)

24 March 2022, 8pm
Philharmonie, Berlin (Germany)

26 March 2022, 7pm
European Solidarity Centre,
Gdańsk (Poland)

Nordic Swans

The swan is a majestic bird
cherished in Nordic culture, and tonight
we bring you swan-inspired music

Arvo Pärt (1935)
Swansong

Jean Sibelius (1865 – 1957)
The Swan of Tuonela

Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)
Swan Lake
Dramatic Symphony arranged
by Kristjan Järvi

Inside the music

Discover the themes and stories of tonight's programme

We are delighted to present our concert experience '**Nordic Swans**'. After six months away from the stage, it is a huge thrill to be touring Europe once again. Tonight we perform a programme inspired by one of nature's noblest creatures – the swan. Featuring music by Arvo Pärt, Sibelius and Tchaikovsky, 'Nordic Swans' celebrates these majestic birds that are often visible on the Baltic coast, especially at sunset. For the Romantics, the swan was a symbol of loyalty, purity and elegance. A swan draws the hero's boat in Wagner's opera *Lohengrin*. It appears in the Finnish national poetry epic *Kalevala* and in medieval German verse romances about the knight Parzival. The final works by composers are often described as their swansong, after the ancient Greek belief that swans sing a beautiful song in the moments before death. Kristijan Järvi, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's Music Director and Founding Conductor, says: 'Swans are creatures of

great purity and beauty, and all the Nordic countries have them in their culture, which is why we're focusing the repertoire in this way.'

Our concert opens with **Arvo Pärt's** contemplative, hymn-like orchestral piece ***Swansong***, which is based on an earlier choral composition, *Littlemore Tractus* (2000), in which Pärt set a text by the influential English theologian Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801–90). The piece exemplifies the Estonian composer's 'holy minimalism', a style of musical expression far removed from the neo-classical and avant-garde works of his early output.

The Swan of Tuonela is the most well known of **Sibelius's** *Four Legends from the Kalevala*, also known as the *Lemminkäinen Suite* (1895). The Legends describe various adventures of the young hero Lemminkäinen, and *The Swan of Tuonela*

depicts the sacred creature he had been tasked to kill. Sibelius wrote at the top of the first edition of the score: 'Tuonela, the land of death, the hell of Finnish mythology, is surrounded by a large river of black waters and a rapid current, in which *The Swan of Tuonela* glides majestically, singing.' Accompanied by richly layered muted strings, a solo cor anglais sings the swan's plaintive melody. A harp offers a glimmer of sunlight as the music brightens momentarily into C major. But the ominous darkness soon returns and the swan glides away, its song fading over a quiet drum beat, with tremulous strings playing col legno (with the wood of the bow).

The world's most popular music on the theme of swans is undoubtedly **Tchaikovsky's** ballet ***Swan Lake***, which was premiered in 1877 at the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre. The famous swan motif paraphrases a sequence of notes in Wagner's opera *Lohengrin*, as the knight warns his beloved Elsa: 'You must never question me.' German fairy tales and the fate of Ludwig II, King of Bavaria, who built so many fairytale castles, apparently served to inspire Tchaikovsky's dreaming prince Siegfried. He falls in love with the enchanted Swan Queen, Odette, who glides over a magical lake together with her companions. Her rival Odile, known as the 'Black Swan', gives the tale its tragic turn, but true love ultimately triumphs over death. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic performs *Swan*

Lake as a Dramatic Symphony arranged by Kristijan Järvi, who says his aim was to 'highlight the brilliance of Tchaikovsky's epic work'. His arrangement combines famous melodies with some less familiar sections of the original ballet score.

A unique concert experience

The first tour of 2022 for the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, 'Nordic Swans' is an exemplary showcase for our transformation of the classical concert experience. We perform the entire programme from memory, with most of the musicians standing up and able to move freely on the stage. Specially devised choreography and bespoke half-black and half-white concert outfits subtly combine to conjure an impression of swans dancing and moving on dark water. Dynamic lighting design adds to the vivid atmosphere. With this multisensory, multidimensional experience, we aim to take audiences on an exhilarating adventure to the North.

*For the Romantics,
the swan was a
symbol of loyalty, purity
and elegance*



Nordic pioneer

Kristjan Järvi's
unstoppable vision

Creative freedom, risk-taking and innovation are at the heart of Kristjan Järvi's work with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. 'We are building a new orchestral model,' he says. 'As orchestras, we have to ask ourselves what we are here for. It must be to create, uplift, inspire and innovate. And you cannot have innovation without taking risks. Everything we're doing with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic – from playing by heart to performing with lights and sound design – is about making that creative leap, and hopefully inspiring others through our example.'

Kristjan has instilled in the Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians a **collective spirit of self-discovery**. He encourages their passion and potential in areas such as memorisation, digital production and music creation. And he nurtures their leadership skills, guiding a team of section leaders and senior musicians. 'What we are doing with the orchestra,' he says, 'is a constant process of opening musicians up to possibilities, so they discover what lies within.'

The idea that anything is possible is not just a touchstone for the Baltic Sea Philharmonic players. It also encapsulates Kristjan's vision for the concert experience, which becomes a thrillingly immersive spectacle of music, lighting design, digital soundscapes and video projections. 'I want to create transformational environments,' he says. 'The audience should

feel as if they are suddenly entering a new dimension.' This same invitation to a world of possibilities is extended with 'Nordic Swans'. Kristjan says: 'The swan is not just a Nordic symbol. It is also the symbol of a majestic feeling of infinity. This is what I try to instill in people with everything that I do – to think with a sense of the infinite.'

Kristjan has 'earned a reputation as one of the canniest, and most innovative, programmers on the classical scene'

Reuters

Biography

Using the power of music to create spaces in which anything is possible, Kristjan pursues his pioneering ideas as a conductor, producer, composer and arranger. He developed his own unique sound with his New York-based classical-hip-hop-jazz group Absolute Ensemble, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, and 'Nordic Pulse', the in-house ensemble of his production company, Sunbeam Productions.

Together with his Sunbeam team, Kristjan creates new experiences that combine music, visual art, lighting design and technology with innovative

concepts. At the end of 2020 he founded nEscapes, a new record label which, besides online music distribution, offers its own unique 'nEscapes Lounges' to artists as a new listening format.

As a conductor, Kristjan is at home on the big international stages, directing great classics from Wagner to Tchaikovsky, and contemporary icons from Steve Reich to Radiohead, as well as his original productions. He collaborates with some of today's brightest creative minds, from film director Tom Tykwer to composers and performers Max Richter, Robot Koch, Hauschka and Bastille.

As a recording artist Kristjan has more than 60 albums to his credit, from Hollywood soundtracks such as *Cloud Atlas* and award-winning albums on Sony Classical and Chandos to his eponymous series the Kristjan Järvi Sound Project, which launched in 2014. *Nordic Escapes*, his debut album as composer and producer for BMG's Modern Recordings was released in 2020.

Born in Estonia, Kristjan emigrated to the United States as a child and grew up in New York City. Since 2015 he has lived in the Estonian capital, Tallinn.

Our musicians

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic is an international community of musicians who share strong ties with the Nordic region, as they were either born in one of the ten countries around the Baltic Sea or live there

Violin

Romualda Bloch (Poland)
Toomas Ellervee (Estonia)
Ilze Gagaine (Latvia)
Sabīne Grase (Latvia)
Toke Hansenius (Denmark)
Kseniia Ivakina (Russia)
Saimi Kortelainen (Finland)
Sarah Lie (Norway)
Marzena Malinowska (Poland)
Andrea Masciarelli (Italy/Estonia)
Evgenia Pavlova (Russia)
Malwina Rabenda (Poland)
Diāna Reimane (Latvia)
Kata Stojanovic (Serbia/Estonia)
Kinga Streszewska (Poland)
Ann Meeta Teppo (Estonia)
Amanda Vieško (Latvia)
Augustina Vizbaraitė (Lithuania)
Anna Walek (Poland)
Laura Zimka (Latvia)

Viola

Nemanja Adamović (Serbia/Germany)
Elina Čipāne (Latvia)
Aleksandr Dubitsa (Estonia)
Sophie Gailly (Belgium/Sweden)
Barbara Kammer (Poland)
Maximilian Procop (Germany)
Madara Tupiņa (Latvia)
Sofia Ugusheva (Russia)

Cello

Lydia Eriksson (Finland)
Adam Garnecki (Poland)
Marius Malanețchi (Romania/Germany)
Zuzanna Pietrusińska (Poland)
Aneta Stefańska (Poland)
Alicja Szydłowska (Poland)

Double Bass

Mateusz Filip (Poland)
Miłosz Madejski (Poland)

Strahinja Mitrović (Serbia/Germany)
Jakob Rolandsson (Sweden)
Mateusz Wadowski (Poland)

Flute

Kristīne Beitika (Latvia)
Evelīna Lašketa (Latvia)
Marija Račkauskaitė (Lithuania)

Oboe

Viktoria Kassel (Germany)
Victor Sjögren (Sweden)

Clarinet

Alexey Mikhaylenko (Russia)
Fátima Trives Escolano (Spain/Denmark)

Bassoon

Íñigo Aramburu Arnáiz (Spain/Germany)
Jakob Peäske (Estonia)

French Horn

Ingrid Aukner (Norway)
César Cabañero Martínez (Spain/Germany)
Nikita Iankovskii (Russia)
Mikus Runka (Latvia)

Trumpet

Laur Keller (Estonia)
Kayleigh Neff (USA/Noway)
Emilia Suchlich (Germany)
Grácio Zaquê Vieira Silva (Brazil/Finland)

Trombone

Niklas Joelsen (Norway)
Kaspar-Oskar Kramp (Estonia)

Kristine Oppegaard (Norway)

Tuba

Enri Remmelgas (Estonia)

Harp

Liis Jürgens (Estonia)

Percussion

Daniel Alin (Sweden)
Pietari Huhtinen (Finland)
Simon Landqvist (Sweden)
Elias Nummenmaa (Finland)
Rasmus Vinther (Denmark)

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Peter Adamik (Photographer)
Bernd Possardt (Photographer)
Manuela Reut (Stylist)
Raban Ruddigkeit (Design)
Peter Somerford (Editor)
Tom Groß (Light Design)
Sandor Antal (Stage Manager)
Thomas Hesse (Stage Manager)



Born to innovate

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic is redefining the orchestral model

Under the baton of Music Director and Founding Conductor Kristjan Järvi, every performance of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is a voyage of musical discovery. Playing entire programmes by heart, the musicians create a one-of-a-kind artistic journey.

Each concert is a unique spectacle of sound, light, choreography, visual art and technology, an electrifying experience that fizzes with infectious energy. Even more than this, as a community of musicians from ten Nordic countries, the Baltic Sea

Philharmonic transcends geographical and historical boundaries and has become a **movement for bringing people together**. Embodying all that is innovative and progressive about the Nordic region, this visionary ensemble is providing compelling

answers to the questions of how a 21st-century orchestra can evolve, perform, educate and connect people. 'It is a living breathing creature, with boundless energy and enthusiasm for the new – an adventure in itself', says Kristjan Järvi.

Passion, unity and vision

Bringing together musicians from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic began life in 2008 on the initiative of the Usedom Music Festival and won immediate acclaim for its passionate performances and its powerful message of unity in a historically divided region. The orchestra was praised by German Chancellor Angela Merkel as 'a compelling example of using music as a powerful medium for cooperation and integration across borders'. And its achievements were honoured in 2015 with the European Culture Prize by the European Culture Foundation 'Pro Europe'.

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic performs regularly in the most prestigious concert halls and festivals in Europe and beyond, including the Berlin Philharmonie, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Dubai Opera, the White Nights Music Festival in St. Petersburg, the George Enescu Festival and the Merano Music Festival. The orchestra has collaborated with leading soloists such as Julia Fischer, Valentina Lisitsa, Jonas Kaufmann and Gidon Kremer, as well as

renowned conductor Kurt Masur, the pop band Bastille and composer Max Richter.

Education and training have, alongside international touring, always been at the heart of the orchestra's mission, with a commitment to develop the musicians' professional skills and expand their musical horizons, especially in the area of memorised performance. The creation in 2013 of the Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation consolidated a burgeoning education programme, which includes chamber music coaching and special concerts for school students.

Revolutionary concert experiences

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic has established an international reputation for its innovative programmes that throw classical music conventions out of the window and enable audiences and the musicians alike to experience new musical dimensions. The groundbreaking '**Waterworks**' (2017/18), in collaboration with Sunbeam Productions, fused music, light, sound design, visual art and fashion to spectacular effect. '**Baltic Folk**' (2017) featured the first ever memorised

performance of Stravinsky's *The Firebird*. '**Nordic Pulse**' (2018–20) is an innovative celebration of the North. '**Midnight Sun**' (2019) introduced a new model of performing the complete programme not just from memory but also without breaks or intermission, thus creating a seamless flow of music. '**Divine Geometry**' (2019) brought together Baroque and minimalism, and included the German premiere of Steve Reich's *Music for Ensemble and Orchestra*, a work co-commissioned by the Baltic Sea Philharmonic together with the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. '**Nordic Swans**' (2021/22), a swan-inspired programme of music by Arvo Pärt, Sibelius and Tchaikovsky, features bespoke concert outfits that enhance the swan theme, together with atmospheric lighting design.

In the second half of 2022, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will bring the magical power of fairy tales to life. Kristjan Järvi's own reworkings of Tchaikovsky's *The Snow Maiden* and *The Nutcracker* showcase the quintessential colour and drama of the great Russian composer's theatre music. The programme will be performed at the Usedom Music Festival and in Tallinn (among others) in September and on a tour of Switzerland in December.

Playing by heart

Performing from memory has become an essential part of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's signature concert experience. The absence of music stands and scores creates a special feeling on stage, produces a thrilling visual impact in the hall, and opens up **new possibilities for dynamic presentation** and choreography. The musicians, most of whom are standing, are free to move and interact with each other and the conductor. The orchestra becomes like a powerful organism, every player attuned to one collective beating heart. In the words of percussionist Mathias Matland, 'It is an amazing feeling, and very liberating. With the stands gone, you can see what everyone is doing, and you're much more connected with everyone on stage.'

The Firebird and many more musical works played by heart have been wowing audiences and critics at Baltic Sea Philharmonic performances ever since. After a concert at the Elbphilharmonie in 2019, Joachim Mischke of the *Hamburger Abendblatt* wrote: 'Keeping Stravinsky's high-octane score from crashing under its own weight is no easy feat for an orchestra, let alone one with all the notes in front of the players' noses. But by heart, like the rest of the almost two-hour, uninterrupted programme? As a kind of story ballet, in which groups of instruments or individuals wander across the stage, in which they

'Clearly a different league'

Hamburger Abendblatt

dance in rhythm and the concertmaster takes off her pumps in the midst of all this excess energy? This is clearly a different league.'

New horizons online

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic is passionate about innovation in the digital landscape. Amid the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic it launched a series of **cutting-edge digital projects** connecting musicians and music fans around Europe and across the world. An ambitious virtual-orchestra production of a 20-minute extract from Shostakovich's epic Symphony No. 7, the 'Leningrad', which premiered online in May 2020, involved no fewer than 108 Baltic Sea Philharmonic players in 18 countries. And in July 2020 the orchestra and Kristjan Järvi started 'Musical Chain', an ongoing series of original music remix videos giving classical gems a cutting-edge twist. Through this innovative project, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is evolving from an orchestra into a band, with the musicians becoming producers as well as creators.

In the face of pandemic disruptions, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic also brought its recruitment drive online with a highly successful **Digital Talent Tour**. In January and December 2021, the orchestra held **live video-conference auditions** for candidates from the entire Baltic Sea region. These musicians were selected from more than 250 candidates who had applied and

submitted recorded video performances. The jury for the live virtual auditions, comprising Kristjan Järvi and up to ten Baltic Sea Philharmonic senior musicians, made a final selection of 80 musicians, who have joined the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's pool of outstanding players for international tours and exciting opportunities on stage, in the studio and online.

The orchestra's senior musicians had important responsibilities throughout the entire Digital Talent Tour audition process, from helping to choose the audition repertoire, to assessing the initial video applications, and then conducting the live virtual auditions. By helping to appraise and interview their peers, these experienced members play a key role in shaping and developing the unique personality of the orchestra as a whole. Auditioning their fellow players is also an opportunity for the senior musicians to develop their own leadership qualities, critical listening and empathetic communication skills, and gain valuable insights into the audition process. Flautist and senior musician **Kristīne Beitika**, from Latvia, says: 'When I listened to the applicants I wanted them to succeed and feel confident and happy about their playing. Having had this experience of being on the jury, I know that it will help me for my own auditions.'

'The orchestra has an explicit social dimension, which really struck me as important'

Max Richter

An acclaimed, fast-growing discography

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi expanded their acclaimed discography in 2020, with two recordings for Sony Classical and another for BMG. Sony released ***Sleeping Beauty***, a new arrangement by Kristjan Järvi of Tchaikovsky's famous ballet as a 70-minute Dramatic Symphony, and ***Glass & Stravinsky Violin Concertos*** with the young Swiss violinist David Nebel. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic also features on Kristjan Järvi's debut album for BMG/Modern Recordings, ***Nordic Escapes***. These three recordings led to the orchestra and Kristjan Järvi being nominated in no fewer than eight categories for the **OPUS KLASSIK 2021**, the new prize for classical music in Germany.

The latest Baltic Sea Philharmonic album, Max Richter's ***EXILES***, was released in August 2021 and marks the orchestra's label debut for Deutsche Grammophon. It is the orchestra's first major collaboration with leading contemporary composer Max

Richter, although his compositions have previously featured on the programmes of Baltic Sea Philharmonic concerts. Recorded in Tallinn, Estonia, in September 2019, in the presence of the composer, ***EXILES*** features new versions of pieces from previous Max Richter albums, as well as pieces originally composed for ballet scores.

The main work on the new album, the 33-minute ***Exiles***, has a strong socio-political dimension, in that it is Richter's personal response to the humanitarian disaster of the migrant crisis and the plight of Syrian refugees. The choice of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic – with its open, borderless and unifying nature – as collaborators for the album was therefore an important one for the composer. 'They are engaged with music and society, connecting people who live around the Baltic Sea, so that obviously includes former Western European countries and former Eastern bloc countries,' he says. 'The orchestra has an explicit social dimension, which really struck me as important.'

Digital solidarity

Bringing the band back together
with 'Musical Chain'

When live performances were disrupted by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic quickly responded with innovative digital projects. These reflect its strength as a community of musicians and its commitment to capturing online the energy and spirit of its live performances. **'Musical Chain'**, a series of strikingly original music videos which launched in July 2020, takes the now-familiar virtual orchestra concept in a completely fresh direction, bringing musicians from the orchestra together with other artists and creative collaborators. A symbol of unity and solidarity in the face of the pandemic, 'Musical Chain' also shows how the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is taking the concept of the orchestra further – from ensemble to band to producer.

For the musicians of the orchestra, the 'Musical Chain' project has been a vital source of connection during lockdowns, a chance to learn about shooting and

producing videos, and a way of expressing new facets of their creative personality. Horn player Noé Lehmann says: "Musical Chain" gives me the opportunity to explore my creativity in a whole new way. It helped me to stay strong in these difficult times and it made me incredibly happy when I saw my fellow musicians in the videos.'

'Musical Chain' has so far featured five music videos. For most of the videos, Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians recorded audio tracks at home and filmed themselves in atmospheric landscapes. Kristjan Järvi then mixed the audio and a professional video production team edited the final videos, which were released on the orchestra's social media channels and have reached over 140,000 people worldwide so far.

Recutting classical gems

The first video in the series, **'Midnight Mood'**, is a reimagining of Grieg's 'Morning Mood' from *Peer Gynt* and features 13 musicians

from the orchestra. **'Beethoven's Twilight'** is a cutting-edge, electronics-infused take on Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, starring 21 members of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. The musicians filmed themselves performing outside, and these scenes were intercut with emotive scenes of love, loss, pain and peace, along with elemental images of nature, cities and space.

'Ascending Swans' is based on Sibelius's 'Song of Praise' from the *Swanwhite Suite*, one of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's signature encore pieces. The orchestra recorded the music in Merano, Italy, in September 2020, and the video features 13 musicians along with stunning images that celebrate the landscapes and nature of the North. **'Nutty Christmas'**, a fun seasonal take on Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, transforms the 'Dance of the Reed Pipes' and the 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy' into the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's very own Christmas carol.

The latest 'Musical Chain' video, **'Midnight Sun'**, is inspired by the phenomenon of the never-setting sun that occurs above the Arctic Circle around midsummer. With music recorded during the orchestra's

'Nordic Pulse' tour in September 2020 and remixed by Kristjan Järvi, the video conjures the magical light, wonder and nature of the North. Estonian bagpipes player Mari Meentalo's unique improvisations give the track an otherworldly dimension. The video for 'Midnight Sun' takes on a new visual direction and was created under the direction of Berlin-based designer, editor and illustrator Raban Ruddigkeit. He has collaborated with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic since 2016 and is responsible for the graphic design of the orchestra's entire media output.

'Midnight Sun' was the first original 'Musical Chain' audio track to be released on a label, with BMG/Modern Recordings releasing short and long versions of the track in July 2021. All the other original audio tracks from the 'Musical Chain' series have since been released on the new independent label nEscapes.

'Musical Chain' continues in 2022 with further international collaborators involved in the creative process, and with the musicians of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic becoming producers of their own audio and video productions.

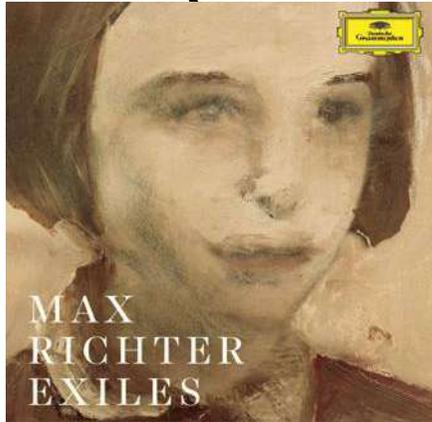
"Musical Chain" gives me the opportunity to explore my creativity in a whole new way'

Noé Lehmann (Switzerland/Germany) – Horn



Listening pleasures

Enjoy the sound of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic anywhere you like with our album releases



Max Richter: EXILES
Deutsche Grammophon, 2021
Baltic Sea Philharmonic, Kristjan Järvi



Tchaikovsky: Sleeping Beauty. A Dramatic Symphony. Arranged by Kristjan Järvi
Sony Classical, 2020
Baltic Sea Philharmonic, Kristjan Järvi



Kristjan Järvi: Nordic Escapes
BMG/Modern Recordings, 2020
Baltic Sea Philharmonic,
London Symphony Orchestra,
Nordic Pulse Ensemble, Kristjan Järvi



Wagner: The Ring. An Orchestral Adventure.
Arranged for orchestra by Henk de Vlieger
Sony Classical, 2016
Baltic Sea Philharmonic,
Kristjan Järvi



Igor Stravinsky, Philip Glass: Violin Concertos
Sony Classical, 2020
David Nebel, violin, Baltic Sea Philharmonic,
London Symphony Orchestra, Kristjan Järvi



Kristjan Järvi: Midnight Sun
BMG/Modern Recordings, 2021
Mari Meentalo, Estonian bagpipe,
Baltic Sea Philharmonic, Kristjan Järvi



Stars on screen

Two eye-catching documentaries spotlight the Baltic Sea Philharmonic

Visitors to the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's YouTube channel can watch a wide selection of concert highlights, complete performances, original music videos and behind-the-scenes footage. On top of this digital presence, two recent feature-length documentaries, *Nordic Pulse* and *Bastille – ReOrchestrated*, are now showcasing the orchestra in a spectacular way.

***Nordic Pulse* – a journey of self-discovery**

Premiered at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival in Estonia in November 2019, *Nordic Pulse* follows the orchestra on two landmark European tours that it made in 2017 – 'Waterworks' and 'Baltic Folk'.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker David Donnelly (*Maestro*, *Forte*), the film is a portrait of an exceptional group of musicians from ten different nations who come together for a journey of self-discovery. The documentary explores how the Baltic Sea Philharmonic challenges expectations of what an orchestra can be. It's also the story of a visionary leader in Kristjan Järvi, who wants to transform the concert experience for audiences and change their way of thinking about the world.

Within the first few days of filming on *Nordic Pulse*, Donnelly knew he was witnessing something special. 'I have

been documenting the classical sphere for nearly a decade,' he says, 'but within minutes of the first rehearsal, I realised this was a completely unique organisation with ambitious goals that went far beyond just making music. What they are doing can't be defined by a traditional description of an orchestra or genre.'

Nordic Pulse follows Järvi and the orchestra to nine cities in four countries, with exclusive concert footage from venues including the spectacular Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, and the poignant Historical Technical Museum in Peenemünde, the site of the Nazis' V2 rocket facility in the Second World War, now transformed into a place of culture, peace and hope.

An unforgettable night in Hamburg, in *Bastille – ReOrchestrated*

Released on Amazon Prime Video in February 2021, *Bastille – ReOrchestrated* explores how British pop band **Bastille** redefined its sound and the musical experience for its fans by experimenting with orchestral arrangements. The film features extensive performance and behind-the-scenes footage from a spectacular charity

concert at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie on 4 January 2020, when the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi joined Bastille on stage to perform special reorchestrations of the band's songs.

The Elbphilharmonie concert, in support of YouTube charity channel Channel Aid, was a wild success, with 2,100 music fans packing the Elbphilharmonie, and more than 10,000 following a livestream of the performance on YouTube. Bastille lead vocalist Dan Smith said afterwards: 'It was a real privilege to play with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi. To collaborate on stage with so many brilliant musicians was such an incredible experience and one that we'll never forget.'



'To collaborate on stage with so many brilliant musicians was an incredible experience and one that we'll never forget'

Dan Smith, Bastille



Baltic Spirit

Join our vibrant community

Through their experience of touring with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, our musicians have developed a strong bond of friendship and community – a unique Baltic Spirit. We bring this same spirit to you, not only live on stage but also in our series ‘**Humans of Baltic Sea Philharmonic**’, which we regularly publish on our social media channels, and which gives our players the chance to introduce themselves in their own words.

Through our social media channels, you can get involved with the orchestra by watching our videos on **YouTube**, having your say on **Facebook**, checking out photos of our musical adventures on **Instagram**, or listening to our music on **Spotify**.

Our free email newsletter ‘**Baltic Sea Inside**’ features all the latest news about the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and its activities, from educational projects, concerts and tours, to media highlights, success stories and how you can get more involved with us – whether as a fan, supporter or musician.

These channels are our way of bringing the Baltic Sea Philharmonic closer to you, and as they grow we hope more and more music lovers will join our vibrant community. So come in, explore, and let us know what you think. We would love to hear your feedback.

‘Once you taste this spirit of ingenuity, brilliance and innovation, there is nothing else to do than to carry it with you through your life’

Vida Bobin (Poland) – Violin



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