

# Press Release

## **Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi add new dimensions to their 'Midnight Sun' tour programme**

- **Summer tour of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi from 21–23 June takes in the Berlin Philharmonie, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and Kissinger Sommer**
- **Hamburg concert sold out**
- **Programme inspired by the Nordic phenomenon of the midnight sun, with music by Sibelius, Kristjan Järvi and Stravinsky**
- **New works by musicians from the orchestra and Latvian composer Georgs Pelēcis**
- **Baltic Sea Philharmonic transforms concert into non-stop musical adventure, played entirely from memory**

**Berlin May 11, 2023.** The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** and **Kristjan Järvi** are constantly evolving. As a result of two 'Creativity Labs' that the orchestra has held for its musicians since 2022, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is now integrating its **own compositions** into the programme of its 2023 'Midnight Sun' tour. The inclusion of works by four orchestral musicians from Estonia, Lithuania and Poland is an important step on the orchestra's journey to becoming a composing ensemble. Other new additions include the *Concertino bianco* by Latvian composer **Georgs Pelēcis**, excerpts from **Sibelius'** Symphony No. 2, and **Pärt's** *Da Pacem*.

Concert-goers will experience a stimulating musical journey with no breaks or intermission, as the performers play from memory without the use of music stands. The musicians' kinetic energy on stage and their dynamic engagement with each other and their conductor further enhance the presentation.

The 2023 'Midnight Sun' tour will start on June 21 at the **Berlin Philharmonie** and then continue to the sold-out **Elbphilharmonie Hamburg** (June 22) and the **Kissinger Sommer** (June 23).

**Tickets** for the Berlin concert, held in collaboration with the Young Euro Classic international music festival in Berlin, are available [here](#). The 'Midnight Sun' tour is sponsored by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, state minister Claudia Roth.

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## **On the way to a composing orchestra**

For the first time, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is integrating three compositions by its own musicians in a tour programme. With *Hollow in the tree*, violist **Mintautas Kriščiūnas** and harpist **Zuzanna Wąsiewicz** want to inspire other musicians and listeners to believe in their potential and encourage them, in the words of Kriščiūnas, 'not to capitulate to their fears and instead enjoy every day of their precious lives.' The music was created in 2020 in the shadow of the Covid 19 lockdowns and was released as a music clip on the ensemble's YouTube channel as part of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's innovative series of music videos, 'Musical Chain' ([link](#)).

*Sireen*, by Estonian cellist **Maria Mutso**, is about the mythological figure of the mermaid. The work was created during two 'Creativity Labs' that the Baltic Sea Philharmonic held in November 2022 on the German-Polish island of Usedom and in March 2023 in Pärnu, Estonia. Working with Kristjan Järvi and experienced sound engineers, the orchestra encouraged its musicians to unleash their creative potential and develop new skills. 'We learned an incredible amount, and experimented with new techniques,' says Mutso. 'It was cool to see what kind of input different people can have and how our characters come out that way, creating melodies and supporting each other. On top of that, there were workshops – so a lot of cool and new experiences!'

*The Dream of Tabu-tabu* by **Liis Jürgens**, one of the orchestra's harpists, has already been passionately celebrated by audiences in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the Berlin Philharmonie. As a powerful, cinematic statement for freedom of expression and against totalitarianism and violence, it calls to mind the Soviet era in Estonia, when one's own opinion could not always be expressed publicly and many topics were taboo.

Pärt's, *Da Pacem*, compositions by Kristjan Järvi, excerpts from Stravinsky's *The Firebird* and the second movement of the *Concertino bianco* for piano and orchestra by Latvian composer Georgs Pelēcis round off the immersive sound spectacle of 'Midnight Sun'. Inspired by the phenomenon of the never-setting midnight sun, this unique concert experience brings the magical atmosphere of a Nordic midsummer to Berlin, Hamburg and Bad Kissingen.

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## **Baltic Sea Philharmonic – a revolution in music and culture**

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic takes the orchestral concert experience to a new dimension. Every performance is a voyage of musical discovery, as the musicians perform the entire programme from memory, creating a one-of-a-kind artistic journey. Each concert is a unique spectacle of sound, light, visual art, technology, choreography and playing by heart, and under the electrifying baton of Music Director and Founding Conductor Kristjan Järvi every performance has a special energy that's absolutely infectious. But even more than this, as a community of musicians from ten Nordic countries, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic transcends 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 taking the traditional orchestral model further than ever before. 'It is a living breathing creature, with boundless energy and enthusiasm for the new – an adventure in itself,' says Kristjan Järvi.

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### **Notes to editors:**

#### **'Midnight Sun'**

Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 8.00pm, Philharmonie Berlin (Germany)

Thursday, 22 June 2023, 8.00pm, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg (Germany)

Friday, 23 June 2023, 7.30pm, Kissinger Sommer (Germany)

### **Baltic Sea Philharmonic**

#### **Kristjan Järvi**

Jean Sibelius / Kristjan Järvi: *Ascending Swans*

Kristjan Järvi: *Runic Prayer*

Maria Mutso: *Sireen*

Mintautas Kriščiūnas & Zuzanna Wąsiewicz: *Hollow in the tree*

Arvo Pärt: *Da Pacem*

Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 2 (excerpts)

Kristjan Järvi: *Midnight Sun*

Georgs Pelēcis: *Concerto bianco*, second movement

Liis Jürgens: *The Dream of Tabu-tabu*

Igor Stravinsky: *The Firebird* (excerpts)

Ticket link Philharmonie Berlin: <https://www.eventim.de/event/baltic-sea-philharmonic-kristjan-jaervi-philharmonie-berlin-16707477/>



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### **About the Baltic Sea Philharmonic**

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic is a unique Nordic orchestra that brings together musicians from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. The orchestra started life in 2008 as the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic on the initiative of the Usedom Music Festival. It quickly established an international reputation, not just for its acclaimed performances under the baton of Kristjan Järvi, but also with its powerful message of unity and cooperation in a historically divided region. In 2015 the orchestra's achievements were honoured with the prestigious European Culture Prize by the European Culture Foundation 'Pro Europe'. In 2016 the orchestra was renamed the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. Since then it has toured innovative programmes that throw classical music conventions out of the window and enable audiences to experience new musical dimensions. After becoming the first orchestra in the world to perform Stravinsky's *The Firebird* from memory, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is now widely known for its commitment to playing entire programmes by heart. The orchestra's growing discography with Kristjan Järvi includes four acclaimed recordings for Sony Classical, the most recent of which is Järvi's own arrangement of Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker*. Recorded by the orchestra completely from memory, *Nutcracker. A Dramatic Symphony* was released in December 2022. In addition, Max Richter's album *EXILES*, recorded by the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi, was released in August 2021 on Deutsche Grammophon. In 2022 the Baltic Sea Philharmonic continued its innovative digital project 'Musical Chain', which it launched in 2020 in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. This unique series of classical remix videos brings musicians from the orchestra together with international artists and creative collaborators. In 2023 the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will once again be able to travel thousands of miles across Europe, beginning in June with its first 'Midnight Sun' tour of Germany. With 'Midnight Sun', the orchestra captures the magic of midsummer nights by weaving the special colours and rhythms of Nordic composers into a total artistic experience combining music, choreography, light and sound design. In September 2023 the orchestra and Kristjan Järvi will give further concerts in Germany and Italy in a second 'Midnight Sun' tour, complete with a new programme. [www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu](http://www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu)