

Press Release



Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi to make historic 'Waterworks' tour of United Arab Emirates in November 2018

- **Concerts in Abu Dhabi and Dubai will be orchestra's first ever performances outside Europe**
- **Revolutionary 'Waterworks' concert experience in collaboration with Sunbeam Productions will feature cutting-edge lighting, sound design and projection art**
- **Tour marks climax of orchestra's tenth-anniversary year**
- **Programme's focus on life-giving power of water reflects Baltic Sea Philharmonic's commitment to the environment**
- **Orchestra to collaborate with Absolute Ensemble, violinist Mikhail Simonyan and Emirati singer Jasim Mohamed Abdullah**

Berlin, 7 November 2018. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic will give its first ever concerts in the Middle East this November, presenting its revolutionary 'Waterworks' programme – a new dimension to experience music – in collaboration Sunbeam Productions on a tour of the United Arab Emirates. **Kristjan Järvi** will conduct the orchestra in performances at Abu Dhabi's Emirates Palace on 11 November and the Dubai Opera on 14 November. The tour marks the climax of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's landmark tenth-anniversary year, and will be the orchestra's first tour outside Europe.

'Waterworks' – inspired by the wonder of water

Water, in the form of the Baltic Sea, is at the heart of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's identity, connecting the ten Nordic countries from where the orchestra draws its musicians and inspiration. The ensemble has always been connected to nature and the environment, and 'Waterworks' celebrates water in all its forms. Kristjan Järvi, the orchestra's Founding Conductor and Music Director, says: 'Water is the essence of life and the binding force for all humanity. The Baltic Sea is the engine of our region, but it also connects us to all the other waters of the world.' The 'Waterworks' programme features music directly inspired by water: a unique version of Handel's spectacular *Water Music* and a new orchestration of Philip Glass's *Agua da Amazonia*. The programme also includes another work by Glass that takes its inspiration from nature – his Violin Concerto No. 2 'The American Four Seasons'.

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The Baltic Sea Philharmonic's supercharged version of *Water Music* sets a selection of Handel's own music alongside two contemporary pieces: *Flux* by David Rozenblatt and *Drenched* by Charles Coleman. Rozenblatt is a percussionist, composer and member of the New York-based Absolute Ensemble, and will join the Baltic Sea Philharmonic as a performer on the 'Waterworks' tour. He says of his new piece: '*Flux* explores the paradoxically oppositional significance of water. What is at once majestic and enchanting, the source of life itself, can also devastate and overwhelm, becoming a threat to that very existence. My goal in this piece was to embody the motion of water, contemplating its beauty and grandeur as well as its capacity to create or destroy.'

Reimagining the concert experience

'Waterworks' is a radical reinvention of the live orchestral concert. Debuted by the Baltic Sea Philharmonic in 2017 to great acclaim from critics and audiences alike, 'Waterworks' fuses music with state-of-the-art lighting, sound design and projection art. Kristjan Järvi and his production company Sunbeam Productions have brought together a world-class creative team in lighting designer Bertil Mark, sound designer Chris Ekers and projection artist Philipp Geist. Together they will collaborate with the orchestra in real time to reimagine the concert experience, immersing audiences in a thrilling world of sound, light and imagery. 'I want to create an atmosphere from the moment a concert goer enters the space,' says Järvi. 'The audience should feel like they are suddenly entering a new dimension, a world where anything is possible.'

Friends old and new

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic's tour of the United Arab Emirates will reunite the orchestra with Russian-born violinist **Mikhail Simonyan** and three members of the **Absolute Ensemble** – trumpeter Charlie Porter, bass player Mat Fieldes, and percussionist David Rozenblatt. All four musicians collaborated with the orchestra on its 2017 'Waterworks' tour of Germany and Denmark. Simonyan returns as soloist in Philip Glass's Second Violin Concerto, and the Absolute Ensemble players will be embedded in the orchestra for the whole of each performance. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic is also excited to be working for the first time with Emirati singer **Jasim Mohamed Abdullah**, who will join the orchestra for its concert at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi on 11 November.

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Baltic Sea Philharmonic – a revolution in music and culture

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic, which celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2018, is a new paradigm for music making in the 21st century. Its concerts are a unique spectacle of sound, light, projection art and choreography; its passion for playing orchestral works from memory transforms the musical experience for both players and audiences; and its performances, under the electrifying baton of Music Director Kristjan Järvi, have a special passion and energy that's infectious. But 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 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.

Press contact

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Notes to editors:

'Waterworks' – November 2018

Sunday, 11 November 2018, 7.30 pm, Abu Dhabi (Emirates Palace), United Arab Emirates†
Wednesday, 14 November 2018, 8.00 pm, Dubai (Dubai Opera), United Arab Emirates

Baltic Sea Philharmonic
Kristjan Järvi
Mikhail Simonyan
Jasim Mohamed Abdullah

David Rozenblatt/George Frideric Handel/Charles Coleman: *Water Music*
Philip Glass: Violin Concerto No. 2 'The American Four Seasons'
Sayyidi ya sayyed sadati
Philip Glass: *Aguas da Amazonia* (orchestrated by Charles Coleman)

Tickets for 'Waterworks' in Abu Dhabi are [available here](#).
Tickets for 'Waterworks' in Dubai are [available here](#).

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. In 2018 the Baltic Sea Philharmonic celebrates its tenth anniversary. The orchestra started life in 2008 as the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic, a joint initiative of the Usedom Music Festival and Nord Stream AG. 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 region that has historically been divided. In 2015 the orchestra was awarded the prestigious European Culture Prize for its achievements in developing creativity and innovation, and influencing the cultural scene across the Baltic Sea region. Newly renamed the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, in 2016 the orchestra collaborated with Gidon Kremer and the Kremerata Baltica, and celebrated the release by Sony Classical of its recording of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, arranged by Henk de Vlieger. In 2017 the Baltic Sea Philharmonic made history by becoming the first orchestra to perform Stravinsky's *The Firebird* from memory. The

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orchestra continues its commitment to innovation and to the environment in 2018 with an immersive, water-themed concert show that features cutting-edge visual art, lighting and sound design. www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu