

Press Release



Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic Embarks on 10-day, 9-city European Tour with World Premieres and Young Star Soloists (10–20 September)

- **Two world premieres**
- **Performances with renowned international soloists Heigo Rosin, Hyeyoon Park, Pauli Kari**
- **Performance to mark the 25th anniversary of German reunification**

Berlin, 7 July 2015. The talented young musicians of the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic (BYP) embark on a tour of Europe this September under the baton and artistic leadership of Kristjan Järvi. They will bring their music to nine European cities across Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark and Poland, and with it, their shared values of community, innovation, passion and environmental care. They present two premieres, by Gediminas Gelgotas and Severi Pyysalo, and collaborate with some of today's fastest-rising young soloists (Heigo Rosin, Hyeyoon Park, Pauli Kari).

Historic moments

The nine-city tour kicks off on 10 September in Heiden, Germany, and takes the orchestra back to its birthplace at the Usedom Music Festival, where it will perform at the opening concert (19 September), as well making exciting new ground with its debut at the world famous Zurich Tonhalle (12 September). The orchestra also makes eagerly waited returns to Milan and Verona (14 and 15 September). Most historically, they will perform at a special concert in Gdansk to celebrate the 25th anniversary of German reunification (20 September).

World premieres

Repertoire for each concert has been carefully chosen by Founding Conductor and Music Director Kristjan Järvi to celebrate composers and works from across the entire Baltic Sea region, from Estonia's Erkki-Sven Tüür to Denmark's Carl Nielsen. The programme also includes two world premieres, by Lithuanian composer and BYP alumnus Gediminas Gelgotas, and Finnish vibraphonist Severi Pyysalo. Pyysalo's 'Green' Piano Concerto has at its heart the theme of protecting the environment. Kristjan Järvi explains its importance: "For me, Severi Pyysalo's 'Green' Concerto is a powerful evocation of nature across the whole spectrum, from the humility and purity of new life, to its sheer, raw power. I hope that with this new piece, we can go some way to reconnecting with nature, our true selves and our place on this planet." He explains the importance

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of commissioning new works from the region: “In giving a platform to these composers, our love and respect for the Baltic Sea region continues, through our mission to support new music emerging from the scene.”

Rising young soloists

As well as offering talented young players from the Baltic region the opportunity to train to professional standards within the orchestra, the BYP also gives performance possibilities to some of today’s rising stars. Percussionist Heigo Rosin (25) is a former BYP member and the first percussion soloist to emerge from Estonia, winning awards and performing with many major ensembles, and he is launching his own Estonian Percussion Music Project to bring world attention to the composers and percussion music of his home country. He performs Sven Tüür’s *Ardor* for marimba and orchestra (10, 12, 15 September). Violinist Hyeyoon Park (22), from South Korea, has been recognised by numerous international awards and prizes, including the London Music Masters Award 2012–15, the Borletti–Buitoni Trust Award 2011 and Orpheum Foundation sponsorship. She will perform Saint-Saën’s Violin Concerto No. 3 throughout the tour (10, 12, 17 September). Finnish pianist Pauli Kari has received widespread acclaim for his thrilling performances in some of the world’s great venues, from New York’s Carnegie Hall to Leipzig’s Gewandhaus. He will perform the world premiere of Severi Pyysalo’s ‘Green’ Concerto with the orchestra, including at the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the reunification of Germany (19 and 20 September).

Unique voice from the North

Founded in 2008 by the Usedom Music Festival and Nord Stream AG, the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic features musicians aged 18–28 from, or studying in, the ten countries bordering the Baltic Sea. Retaining national specialities but opening up to international perspective, the musicians share their influence, knowledge and perspective to create a unique voice for the region. More than a youth orchestra, it is a project for cultural and social integration and cooperation to create unity in a historically divided region. In 2015, BYP is supported by its co-initiator and main sponsor, Nord Stream AG, operator of the natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, as well as Saipem, one of the global leaders in the engineering & construction and drilling businesses, as sponsor.

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Autumn tour dates 2015

10 September, 7.30 pm

Westmünsterlandhalle, Heiden, Germany

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Soloist: Heigo Rosin, marimba; Hyeyoon Park, violin

Programme: Erkki Sven Tüür: Ardor for Marimba and Orchestra

Camille Saint-Saëns: Violin Concerto No. 3

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnol Op. 3

12 September, 7.30 pm

Tonhalle, Zurich, Switzerland

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Soloist: Heigo Rosin, marimba; Hyeyoon Park, violin

Programme: Gediminas Gelgotas: world-premiere

Erkki Sven Tüür: Ardor for Marimba and Orchestra

Camille Saint-Saëns: Violin Concerto No. 3

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnol Op. 34

14 September, 9.00 pm

Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan, Italy

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Programme: Carl Nielsen: An Imaginary Journey to the Faroe Islands Overture

Edvard Grieg: "Asa's Death" from Peer Gynt

Arvo Pärt: Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten

Ludwig van Beethoven: Cavatina

Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 3 Op. 52 C-Major

15 September, 8.30 pm

Teatro Filarmonico, Verona, Italy

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Soloist: Heigo Rosin, marimba

Programme: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnol Op. 34

Erkki Sven Tüür: Ardor for Marimba and Orchestra

Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 3 Op. 52 C-Major

17 September, 7.30 pm

NDR Sendesaal, Hanover, Germany

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Soloist: Hyeyoon Park, violin

Programme: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnol Op. 34

Camille Saint-Saëns: Violin Concerto No. 3

Arvo Pärt: Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten

Carl Nielsen: An Imaginary Journey to the Faroe Islands Overture

Imants Kalniņš: "Rock Symphony" No.4, I. Allegretto

18 September, 3.30 pm, 5.15 pm (school concerts)

DR Concert Hall / DRMusikariet, Copenhagen, Denmark

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Programme: Arvo Pärt: Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten

Carl Nielsen: An Imaginary Journey to the Faroe Islands Overture

Imants Kalniņš: "Rock Symphony" No.4, I. Allegretto

19 September, 8.00 pm

Kraftwerk/Historisch-Technisches Museum, Peenemünde (Island of Usedom), Germany

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Soloist: Pauli Kari, piano

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Programme: Carl Nielsen: An Imaginary Journey to the Faroe Islands Overture
Severi Pyysalo: Piano Concerto 'Green'
Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 3 Op. 52 C-Major

20 September, 5.00 pm

Polska Filharmonia Bałtycka, Gdansk, Poland

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Soloist: Pauli Kari, piano

Programme: Wojciech Kilar: Orawa

Severi Pyysalo: Piano Concerto "Green"

Ludwig van Beethoven: Cavatna

Imants Kalniņš: "Rock Symphony" No.4, I. Allegretto

Notes for editors

About the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic

Founded in 2008 by the Usedom Music Festival and Nord Stream AG, the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic features musicians aged 18-28 from, or studying in, the ten countries bordering the Baltic Sea. Retaining national specialities but opening up to international perspective, the musicians share their influence, knowledge and perspective to create a unique voice for the region. More than a youth orchestra, it is a project for cultural and social integration and cooperation to create unity in a historically-divided region. In 2015, BYP is supported by Nord Stream AG, operator of the natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, as co-initiator and main sponsor as well as Saipem, one of the global leaders in the engineering & construction and drilling businesses, as sponsor. The orchestra has been funded since 2013 by the Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation e.V. www.bmef.eu

Usedom Music Festival

The sound of the Baltic Sea has been heard since 1994 on the island of Usedom. Every year in late summer, the Usedom Music Festival devotes itself to the rich cultural region around the Baltic Sea. The festival has presented the musical life of Russia, Poland, the Baltic States, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, as well as former Prussia. Soloists, ensembles and conductors such as Mstislav Rostropovich, Kurt Masur, Gidon Kremer, Kristjan, Paavo and Neeme Järvi, Nina Stemme, Alan Gilbert, Esa-Pekka Salonen as well as Jan Garbarek and the Esbjörn Svensson Trio have enthralled their audiences. The Peenemünde Concerts, frequently featuring the NDR Symphony Orchestra, are among the highlights of the more than 40 events presented by the Festival each year. From 19 September to 10 October 2015, the musical and cultural life of Finland will be the focus of the Festival. www.usedomer-musikfestival.de

Nord Stream AG

Co-founder and lead sponsor of the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic, Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of a natural gas pipeline to link Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. Sponsorship of the BYP is part of Nord Stream's programme of cultural, scientific and environmental initiatives that benefit the Baltic Sea region. Nord Stream AG stands for sustainable development, environmental, economic and social responsibility in the energy sector. The idea of a Baltic youth orchestra struck a chord with Nord Stream immediately: like Nord Stream the BYP would be innovative, cross-cultural and only made possible through teamwork and close collaboration across frontiers. www.nord-stream.com