

Press Release



Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic tours Germany in September and October, marking 25th anniversary year of German reunification

- **Concerts in Heiden, Hanover and in Peenemünde, isle of Usedom**
- **International newcomer soloists: Heigo Rosin, Hyeyoon Park and Pauli Kari**
- **World premiere of 'Green' Piano Concerto by Finn Severi Pyysalo**
- **European Cultural Award 2015 for BYP on 2 October in Dresden**

Berlin, 10 August 2015. In the 25th anniversary year of the reunification of Germany, Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic (BYP) undertakes a tour of the country, from west to east. The multinational orchestra of talented music students from all the countries around the Baltic Sea will bring their shared values of community, innovation and passion concern to Germany's concert halls. Under the baton of Estonian Kristjan Järvi, BYP presents the world premiere of the 'Green' Piano Concerto by Finnish composer Severi Pyysalo. It also performs with three rising young soloists: Heigo Rosin, Hyeyoon Park and Pauli Kari. The orchestra's year comes to an exciting climax on 2 October as it collects the prestigious European Cultural Award and performs at a star-studded event at Dresden's Frauenkirche, the Church of our Lady.

Historic moments

The musical journey across Germany kicks off on 10 September in Heiden 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 as making exciting new ground with its debut in the NDR Sendesaal in Hanover (17 September). On 2 October, Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic will be given the European Cultural Award by European Culture Foundation 'Pro Europe', in recognition of its exceptional achievements in developing creativity and innovation, and influencing the young classical music scene across the Baltic Sea region. BYP and Kristjan Järvi will perform together with world-renowned soloists in the live televised ceremony – with tenor Jonas Kaufmann, soprano Angela Gheorghiu, cellist Maximilian Hornung and organ player Samuel Kummer.

World premieres

The 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 a world premiere by Finnish vibraphonist Severi Pyysalo. Pyysalo's 'Green' Piano Concerto has at its heart

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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 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, BYP also gives performance possibilities to some of today's rising stars. Percussionist Heigo Rosin (26) is a BYP musician 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 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, 17 September). Finnish pianist Pauli Kari (38) 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 (19 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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Notes to editors:

10 September, 7.00 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

17 September, 7.00 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

19 September, 8.00 pm

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

Conductor: Kristjan Järvi

Soloist: Pauli Kari, piano

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

About the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic

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Usedom Music Festival

The Usedom Music Festival initiated the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic to give the rich cultural region of the Baltic Sea an united voice. As the sounding Podium of the Baltic Sea, the Festival has equally presented the musical life of all countries surrounding the Baltic Sea, providing a special country focus each year of one of the Baltic Sea countries. Thus, the Festival is fostering artistic cooperation and dialogue across borders. World renowned soloists, conductors and ensembles such as Mstislav Rostropovich, Kurt Masur, Kremerata Baltica, Esbjörn Svenson Trio, Kristjan, Paavo and Neeme Järvi or Esa-Pekka Salonen and many more present the music cultures of their countries being more or less unknown to an German audience. The programmes cover a wide range of classical music spiced up with jazz and popular music. The Peenemünde Concerts, frequently

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featuring the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic and 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 this year's Festival focus. 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