

# Press Release



## **Baltic Sea Philharmonic launches tenth touring season with concerts at Kissinger Sommer festival in Bad Kissingen, Germany, in July 2018**

- **Orchestra and Kristjan Järvi debut ‘Nordic Pulse’, a programme marking ten years since the creation of Baltic Sea Philharmonic**
- **‘Nordic Pulse’ concert includes world premiere of Gediminas Gelgotas’s Violin Concerto with soloist David Nebel**
- **Pioneering ‘Waterworks’ programme returns, featuring projection, lighting and sound design in collaboration with Sunbeam Productions**
- **School concert continues Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation’s commitment to young people**

**Berlin, 2 May 2018.** The Baltic Sea Philharmonic and **Kristjan Järvi** begin a landmark tenth season of international touring with three concerts at the **Kissinger Sommer** music festival in Bad Kissingen, Germany, in July 2018. On 7 July the orchestra will debut a new programme called **‘Nordic Pulse’**, which showcases music by leading composers from the Baltic Sea region, both past and present. Then on 9 July the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will perform its unique **‘Waterworks’** programme, in a spectacular concert presentation featuring cutting-edge projection art, lighting and sound design. The orchestra will also present a special ‘Waterworks’ school concert on the morning of 9 July.

### **‘Nordic Pulse’: a celebration of freedom and identity**

‘Nordic Pulse’ is a double celebration for the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. It marks ten years since the orchestra’s creation and 100 years of independence for the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as Finland and Poland. Kristjan Järvi, the orchestra’s Estonian-born conductor, sees strong parallels between the declaration of independence by the Baltic States and the birth of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. ‘These nations saw the opportunity to assert themselves a century ago,’ he says. ‘People came together to create a nation, a new identity. We created the Baltic Sea Philharmonic with the same spirit. By bringing together musicians from all around the Baltic Sea, the orchestra has always stood for unity.’

For its ‘Nordic Pulse’ concert at the Kissinger Sommer festival, the orchestra will perform music by **Kristjan Järvi**, the contemporary Lithuanian composer **Gediminas Gelgotas**, and **Tchaikovsky**.

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The concert opens with Järvi's *Aurora*, a piece inspired by the iconic Northern Lights, and closes with his arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* concert suite. The centrepiece of the performance is the world premiere of Gelgotas's Violin Concerto, featuring its dedicatee, Swiss violinist **David Nebel**, as soloist. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic previously premiered Gelgotas's *Never Ignore the Cosmic Ocean* in 2012 and *Mountains. Waters. (Freedom)* in 2015, and the composer says that the orchestra and Järvi are ideal advocates for his symphonic music: 'Their energy and strength, their freedom of phrasing the music, the fearlessness in the way they express themselves – these are qualities that I admire very much.' For Nebel, the attraction of Gelgotas's music lies in its power, physicality and emotional directness. 'Gediminas plays with your emotions, and his music can transform your mood,' he says. 'With the Violin Concerto, the biggest challenge for the soloist is keeping the energy through the piece. It's powerful, physical music, and you have to be strong to play it well.'

## **Revolutionary 'Waterworks' concert show returns**

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic won acclaim in 2017 for its water-inspired concert presentation '**Waterworks**', a bold new fusion of music, light, visual art and sound design in collaboration with Sunbeam Productions. The orchestra and Kristjan Järvi will bring 'Waterworks' to Bad Kissingen on 9 July, with a programme of original arrangements of Handel's *Water Music* and a new orchestral version of Philip Glass's *Agua da Amazonia*, a piece inspired by the great Amazon river and its tributaries.

## **'Waterworks' school concert to inspire next generation**

On the morning of 9 July in Bad Kissingen the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi will perform a school concert for children and adolescents from the first to the eleventh grade, featuring selections from the main 'Waterworks' concert programme. Since its formation in 2008 the orchestra has always maintained a strong commitment to education and training. Under the auspices of the Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation, the orchestra notably partnered with Danish Radio to give concerts for schoolchildren from rural areas of Denmark. From 2015 to 2017, as part of the groundbreaking 'Into the Music' programme, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic played to around 16,000 young people in Denmark.

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## **'Nordic Pulse' tour to Italy, Germany and Poland**

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic will tour 'Nordic Pulse' in September, performing music by leading composers from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and Poland. The tour opens with a concert at the Merano Music Festival in Merano, Italy, on 17 September. The orchestra then travels to Germany, where it will play in Munich for the first time on 18 September. After a performance in Halle (Saale) on 20 September, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will open the 25th Usedom Music Festival in Peenemünde on 22 September. The tour concludes with a concert in Gdansk, Poland, on 24 September. Norwegian violinist **Mari Samuelson** joins the orchestra to perform two works by Estonian composers: *Fratres* by **Arvo Pärt** and **Kristjan Järvi's** *Aurora*, in its concerto version for violin and orchestra.

## **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:

### 'Nordic Pulse' and 'Waterworks' – July 2018

Saturday, 7 July 2018, 8.00 pm, Bad Kissingen (Kissinger Sommer), Germany

Baltic Sea Philharmonic  
Kristjan Järvi  
David Nebel

#### Programme 'Nordic Pulse'

Kristjan Järvi: *Aurora*

Gediminas Gelgotas: Violin Concerto (world premiere)

Peter I. Tchaikovsky: *Sleeping Beauty* concert suite (arranged by Kristjan Järvi)

Monday, 9 July 2018, 11.00am, Bad Kissingen (Kissinger Sommer), Germany (school concert)

Monday, 9 July 2018, 8.00pm, Bad Kissingen (Kissinger Sommer), Germany

Baltic Sea Philharmonic  
Kristjan Järvi

#### Programme 'Waterworks'

Gene Pritsker/George Frideric Handel/Charles Coleman: *Water Music*

Philip Glass: *Aguas da Amazonia* (orchestrated by Charles Coleman)

### 'Nordic Pulse' – September 2018

Monday, 17 September 2018, 8.30 pm, Merano (Merano Music Festival), Italy

Tuesday, 18 September 2018, 8.00 pm, Munich (Herkulesaal), Germany

Thursday, 20 September 2018, 7.30 pm, Halle/Saale (Händel Halle), Germany

Saturday, 22 September 2018, 8.00 pm, Peenemünde (Usedom Music Festival), Germany

Monday, 24 September 2018, 5.00pm, Gdansk (Polish Baltic Philharmonic), Poland (without soloist)

Baltic Sea Philharmonic  
Kristjan Järvi  
Mari Samuelsen

Wojciech Kilar: *Orawa*

Gediminas Gelgotas: *Mountains. Waters. (Freedom)*

Arvo Pärt: *Fratres* for violin, percussion and string orchestra

Kristjan Järvi: *Aurora* for violin and orchestra

Jean Sibelius: 'The Tempest' concert suite (arranged by Kristjan Järvi)

Imants Kalniņš: 'Rock' Symphony (Symphony No. 4), first movement

### 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

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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 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](http://www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu)