

# Press Release

## **Baltic Sea Philharmonic finds brightest musical talent from across Nordic region in a unique audition process**

- **Talent Tour in March held in parallel with orchestra's 'Nordic Pulse' tour of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Russia featuring some 70 applicants from across all instrument groups**
- **Innovative audition process combined solo round and full orchestra rehearsal**
- **Nine-strong panel of orchestra principals led each Talent Day – giving current musicians key role in choosing future colleagues**

**Berlin, 27 March 2019.** The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** combined its '**Nordic Pulse**' tour of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Russia in March with a successful recruiting drive, auditioning some of the region's best young musical talent on its **Talent Tour 2019**. The orchestra regularly auditions musicians from throughout the Baltic Sea region in order to renew and refresh the pool of outstanding players who perform with the orchestra on tour. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic works with the region's top conservatoires to recruit the best and brightest musicians, who are usually aged between 18 to 28. From 8 to 19 March, a total of 70 players from across all the orchestral instrumental groups came to audition at **Talent Days** in **Palanga, Riga, Tallinn, Helsinki** and **St. Petersburg**. A further Talent Day will be held in **Berlin** on 27 June 2019. Successful candidates will join the orchestra's player pool and will have the chance to be invited on tours with the orchestra as early as summer 2019 for its 'Midnight Sun' or 'Divine Geometry' tours.

### **A new kind of audition**

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic, under its visionary conductor **Kristjan Järvi**, has established a reputation as a boundary-breaking ensemble, through its commitment to playing major orchestral works by heart and through innovations such as immersive concert experiences that feature cutting-edge lighting, sound design and projection art. It should therefore come as no surprise that the orchestra's auditioning process is special too. Applicants had the opportunity to shine in a solo first round, but also in a **new second round** in which they joined a full orchestra rehearsal. And because the Talent Tour is being held as open auditions, all interested musicians were able to listen to the first-round auditions and full orchestra rehearsals, even if they themselves were not

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auditioning. For young conservatoire players eager to learn more about the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, these rehearsals are a window on the orchestra's world, and a unique chance to see how this convention-busting ensemble works.

A significant part of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's mission is to **empower the musicians** and develop their entrepreneurial and leadership skills. The Talent Tour audition process strongly reflected this, in that it was led by nine of the orchestra's principals. Although Järvi listened to each applicant perform solo and conducted the full orchestra rehearsals, the panel of principal musicians had a leading role in choosing their future fellow players. Principal violist **Marzena Malinowska**, from Poland, explained the panel's approach: 'We were trying to take musicians out of their comfort zones – not in search of failure or perfection, but to see who they really are as people. We let them show and share their passion, and we asked them to do things, such as playing by heart, that they might have thought that they were incapable of doing – in order to show that crossing mental boundaries is fun. When the audition itself becomes an experience that teaches you something, and lets you discover new things in yourself, then the final result does not matter quite so much.'

For 18-year-old flute player **Margarete Galinka**, a student at the Gnessin Moscow Special School of Music who auditioned at the Talent Day in St. Petersburg, the experience was both refreshing and inspirational. 'I had never played an orchestral piece like Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* by heart in an audition before, so that was a very unusual and exciting opportunity,' she said. 'Also, this was the first audition where I felt truly comfortable, because the panel was so warm and encouraging. It felt from the beginning like we were friends, like we could speak freely and improvise together. The atmosphere in the audition was wonderful.'

## **Talent Tour to continue in Berlin in June**

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic will hold a further Talent Day in **Berlin** on 27 June 2019, during its 'Midnight Sun' tour to Berlin and Hamburg in June and July. The application deadline for this audition is 15 May. The Berlin Talent Day will be held as a first-round audition only, but all applicants are invited to visit the orchestra's dress rehearsal at the Berlin Philharmonie on 26 June. More details about the Talent Tour 2019 can be found on the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's website at [www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu/talenttour2019/](http://www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu/talenttour2019/).



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

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic 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:**

#### **Upcoming Talent Day**

Thursday, 27 June 2019, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm, Berlin (Blackbird Music), Germany  
Applicants are invited to visit the dress rehearsal of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic on Wednesday 26 June 2019 at 3.00 pm at the Berlin Philharmonie

Application deadline: 15 May 2019

For more details, see <https://baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu/talenttour2019/>

### **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, 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's achievements were honoured with the prestigious European Culture Prize by the European Culture Foundation 'Pro Europe'. Newly renamed the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, in 2016 the orchestra collaborated with Gidon Kremer and the Kremerata Baltica, and in 2017 became the first orchestra to perform Stravinsky's *The Firebird* from memory. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2018 and also 100 years of independence for Finland, the Baltic States and Poland with 'Nordic Pulse', a programme of music by leading Nordic composers which the orchestra toured to Switzerland, Italy, Germany and Poland. The orchestra continues its commitment to memorised performance in 2019 with a new programme, 'Midnight Sun', which will be performed entirely from memory. [www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu](http://www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu)