

# Press Release

## **Baltic Sea Philharmonic to make Hungarian debut with final concert of 2019, at Müpa Budapest on 19 November**

- **Kristjan Järvi conducts 'Midnight Sun' programme featuring Grieg's Piano Concerto and Stravinsky's *The Firebird***
- **Debut collaboration with Hungarian pianist József Balog**
- **Complete programme to be performed from memory**

**Berlin, 16 October 2019.** The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** will bring its 2019 touring to a close with a 'Midnight Sun' concert in Budapest on **19 November**. The performance, at **Müpa Budapest**, will be the orchestra's debut in Hungary. Joining the orchestra and its Music Director **Kristjan Järvi** will be the Hungarian pianist **József Balog** as soloist in **Grieg's Piano Concerto**. The concerto will be imaginatively intertwined with another celebrated Grieg work, the **Suite No. 1 from *Peer Gynt***. The concert will climax with Stravinsky's 1945 orchestral version of ***The Firebird*** – a piece which the orchestra became the first in the world to perform completely from memory, on the Baltic Sea island of Gotland in 2017. As is now the trademark of the boundary-breaking Baltic Sea Philharmonic, the **entire programme will be played by heart**, with the musicians free to stand, move and interact dynamically with each other and with the conductor.

### **Hometown favourite**

József Balog was born in Budapest in 1979 and is one of the most talented pianists of his generation. In the last 20 years he has given more than 1,000 concerts as a soloist and chamber musician in more than 25 countries across Europe, North America and Asia. Growing up surrounded by the amazing heritage of the renowned Hungarian piano tradition established by Liszt, Dohnányi and Bartók, Balog graduated from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest, where he studied with Jenő Jandó. Having performed with orchestras including the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra, the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, the Ukrainian National Philharmonic and the Jerusalem Chamber Orchestra, he will be making his debut with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi in the 19 November concert.



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## Also in November

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic's 'Divine Geometry' concert at the **Merano Music Festival** on 20 September, which featured the Italian premiere of Philip Glass's Piano Concerto No. 3, will be broadcast in full on [RAI](#) radio on **10 November** at 8.00pm CET.

## Ahead for 2020

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi begin the new year with an exciting collaboration with British indie band Bastille at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie on 4 January. Major European tours in June and September include concerts in Poland, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Russia.

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

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic takes the orchestral concert experience to a new dimension. Every performance is a voyage of musical discovery, as the musicians perform the entire programme from memory, creating a one-of-a-kind artistic journey. Each concert is a unique spectacle of sound, light, visual art and technology, and under the electrifying baton of Music Director and Founding Conductor Kristjan Järvi every performance has a special energy that's absolutely infectious. But even more than this, as a community of musicians from ten Nordic countries, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic transcends 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:

### 'Midnight Sun'

Tuesday, 19 November, 7.30pm, Budapest (Müpa Budapest), Hungary

Baltic Sea Philharmonic  
Kristjan Järvi  
József Balog

Edvard Grieg: *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1  
Edvard Grieg: Piano Concerto



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Igor Stravinsky: *The Firebird* (1945)

## **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 since then has toured innovative programmes that throw classical music conventions out of the window and enable audiences and the musicians alike to experience new musical dimensions. After becoming in 2017 the first orchestra in the world to perform Stravinsky's *The Firebird* from memory, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is now widely known for its commitment to playing entire programmes by heart. In 2020 the orchestra will undertake major tours to Poland, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Russia. [www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu](http://www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu)