



# Press Release

## **Baltic Sea Philharmonic documentary *Nordic Pulse* to premiere at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival on 28 November**

- ***Nordic Pulse* follows orchestra and Kristjan Järvi across Europe on landmark ‘Waterworks’ and ‘Baltic Folk’ tours in 2017**
- **Film reveals how orchestra made history by performing Stravinsky’s *The Firebird* from memory**
- **Spectacular concert footage features unique immersive performances with lighting, sound design and projection art by Sunbeam Productions**
- **Documentary directed by acclaimed filmmaker David Donnelly (*Maestro, Forte*)**

**Berlin, 8 November 2019.** An inspirational documentary about the **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** and **Kristjan Järvi** will receive its world premiere at the **Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival** in Estonia on 28 November. ***Nordic Pulse***, which was directed by acclaimed filmmaker **David Donnelly** (*Maestro, Forte*), follows the orchestra on two landmark European tours that it made in 2017 – ‘**Waterworks**’ and ‘**Baltic Folk**’. It’s a portrait of an exceptional group of musicians from ten different nations who come together for a journey of self-discovery. The film explores how the Baltic Sea Philharmonic challenges expectations of what an orchestra can be, and it’s also the story of a visionary leader, Kristjan Järvi, who wants to transform the concert experience for audiences and change their way of thinking about the world.

Within the first few days of filming, Donnelly knew he was witnessing something special. “I have been documenting the classical sphere for nearly a decade,” he says, “but within minutes of the first rehearsal, I realised this was a completely unique organisation with ambitious goals that went far beyond just making music. What they are doing can’t be defined by a traditional description of an orchestra or genre.”

*Nordic Pulse* follows Järvi and the orchestra to nine cities in four countries, with exclusive concert footage from venues including the spectacular Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, and the poignant Historical Technical Museum in Peenemünde, the site of the Nazis’ V2 rocket facility in the Second World War, now transformed into a place of culture, peace and hope.

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With 'Waterworks', Järvi wanted to transport audiences to a new dimension, and *Nordic Pulse* captures the unique atmosphere as an expert team from **Sunbeam Productions** – light designer Bertil Mark, projection artist Philipp Geist and sound designer Chris Ekers – transforms the musical performance into a fully **immersive concert experience**, complete with vibrant projections and real-time lighting and sound design. On the 'Baltic Folk' tour the orchestra made history by **performing Stravinsky's *The Firebird* from memory** for the first time. *Nordic Pulse* shows the musicians's journeys from wondering whether playing such a complex score by heart is even possible to feeling like it's the most natural and inspiring experience they've ever had in an orchestra. Players began asking Järvi if the orchestra could do whole concerts from memory, and since 2017 this has indeed become a trademark of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, with the musicians now regularly performing entire 120-minute programmes by heart, improvising, dancing, and even singing.

## **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:**

#### ***Nordic Pulse***

**World premiere at Black Nights Film Festival / Pimedate Ööde Filmifestival (PÖFF)**

Thursday, 28 November, 7.15 pm, Tallinn (Coca Cola Plaza), Estonia

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Trailer on <https://youtu.be/ZLdoU3F1LJA>  
Tickets via <https://poff.ee/en/film/nordic-pulse/>

**Baltic Sea Philharmonic**

**Kristjan Järvi**

**A film by David Donnelly**

## **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 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)