



Press Release

Baltic Sea Philharmonic plans return to live performance in September with 'Nordic Pulse' concerts in Italy and Germany

- **Orchestra and Kristjan Järvi to go ahead with modified tour, depending on COVID-19 situation and local regulations**
- **Performances at Merano Music Festival and Usedom Music Festival will feature orchestra of around 40 musicians**
- **Orchestra to perform programme of music by composers of all ten Baltic Sea countries completely from memory**
- **Concert at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg postponed to 14 March 2021**

Berlin 2 July 2020. The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** and **Kristjan Järvi** are set to return to the concert stage in September with performances in **Italy** and **Germany**. The orchestra's '**Nordic Pulse**' tour – an innovative celebration of the North, with music by composers of all ten Baltic Sea countries performed completely by heart – was originally scheduled to include six concerts between 5 and 13 September: the first at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg; two at the Bonn Beethovenfest; one at the Merano Music Festival in Italy; another in Peenemünde, Germany, at the Usedom Music Festival; and a final concert in Stockholm. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beethovenfest has been cancelled, and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's concerts in Hamburg and Stockholm have been postponed until March 2021. The 'Nordic Pulse' tour performances in **Merano** on 10 September and **Peenemünde** on 12 September will, however, go ahead, depending on the progress of the pandemic and also on travel regulations and local authority requirements.

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic is excited to be returning to Merano, where it will be making its fourth successive appearance at the annual Merano Music Festival. The Usedom Music Festival is the orchestra's spiritual home: the idea for the ensemble was born on the island of Usedom in 2008, and the orchestra has performed at the festival every year for the last twelve years.

'Nordic Pulse' – an exhilarating Baltic adventure

The COVID-19 situation means that the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will be touring as a smaller ensemble of around 40 musicians. The 'Nordic Pulse' programme of musical riches will take



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audiences on a journey of discovery across the Baltic Sea region. Russian composer **Tchaikovsky** features on the programme, as well as **Sibelius** from Finland and **Grieg** from Norway. The orchestra will showcase music from young contemporary composers such as **Gediminas Gelgotas** from Lithuania and **Sven Helbig** and **Robot Koch** from Germany, as well as music by **Kristjan Järvi** representing Estonia. 'Nordic Pulse' also includes **Beethoven** in his 250th anniversary year, with his Symphony No. 5. As it is the signature style of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, the musicians will perform the whole programme from memory. Although the orchestra will be, out of necessity, more compact than usual, audiences can expect to feel the same thrill and joy that the Baltic Sea Philharmonic brings to all its performances.

The 'Nordic Pulse' concert that was due to take place at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg on 5 September has been postponed to 14 March 2021, when it will form part of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's 'Midnight Sun' tour of Poland and Germany. All tickets that have been purchased for the concert on 5 September remain valid for the new date next March.

Creating unique online orchestral experiences

During the unprecedented break from live performance, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic has been busy producing innovative online music experiences. It created one of the most ambitious virtual orchestra videos of its kind, with a 20-minute recording of music from Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7, featuring 108 musicians in 18 countries, which premiered on 8 May. By mid-July the orchestra will launch a unique collaborative online project called 'Musical Chain', beginning with a series of remix videos that transform classical music gems for the 21st century. The first of these videos, 'Midnight Mood', which is based on 'Morning Mood' from Grieg's Peer Gynt, will be available to watch shortly on the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's social media channels.

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



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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.

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Notes to editors:

'Nordic Pulse' – September 2020

Thursday, 10 September 2020, 8.30 pm, Merano (Merano Music Festival), Italy

Saturday, 12 September 2020, 8.00 pm, Peenemünde (Usedom Music Festival), Germany

Programme 'Nordic Pulse'

Baltic Sea Philharmonic

Kristjan Järvi

Ludwig van Beethoven (Germany): *Symphony No. 5* (selections)

Gediminas Gelgotas (Lithuania): *To the Skies*

Henryk Górecki (Poland): *Three Pieces in Old Style*

Edvard Grieg (Norway): *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1*

Sven Helbig (Germany): *Bell Sound Falling Like Snow*

Kristjan Järvi (Estonia): *Aurora*

Carl Nielsen (Denmark): *Aladdin Suite* (selections)

Robert Koch (Germany): *Hawk*

Jean Sibelius (Finland): *'Song of Praise' from Swanwhite*

Wilhelm Stenhammar (Sweden): *Mellanspel*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (Russia): *The Sleeping Beauty – Dramatic Symphony* arranged by Kristjan Järvi (selections)

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (Russia): *Swan Lake – Dramatic Symphony* arranged by Kristjan Järvi (Finale)

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



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widely known for its commitment to playing entire programmes by heart. The orchestra and Kristjan Järvi started 2020 with an exciting collaboration, performing with British indie band Bastille at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie. Further performances this year will take the ensemble to Germany and Italy. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic's second recording for Sony Classical was released in May, featuring violinist David Nebel and Kristjan Järvi together with the London Symphony Orchestra. www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu