



# Press Release

## **Baltic Sea Philharmonic launches online initiative 'Musical Chain' with unique series of remix videos**

- **Innovative collaboration brings together orchestra musicians at home, under creative direction of Kristjan Järvi**
- **Project launches with 'Rewritten Series' of music videos, featuring original transformations and remixes of iconic pieces by Grieg, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius**
- **Amid performance hiatus due to COVID-19, 'Musical Chain' continues Baltic Sea Philharmonic's drive to break boundaries and explore new formats**
- **In remembrance of the human chains across the Baltic States in August 1989**

**Berlin 21 July 2020.** The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** and **Kristjan Järvi** are launching a unique online music project called **'Musical Chain'** on 23 July. A symbol of unity and solidarity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in remembrance of the human chains across the three Baltic States in August 1989, 'Musical Chain' brings together musicians from across Europe in a new kind of virtual orchestra collaboration. The project begins with the **'Rewritten Series'** – four strikingly original music videos featuring transformations and remixes of iconic classical pieces, demonstrating yet again the innovative musical approach of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and its leader Kristjan Järvi. The first release of the 'Rewritten Series', **'Midnight Mood'**, based on 'Morning Mood' from Grieg's *Peer Gynt*, is available to watch from 23 July on the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's social media channels ([Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#)). Further videos in the series, including music from Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, and Sibelius's 'Song of Praise' from the *Swanwhite Suite*, will be released over the coming weeks.

### **'Musical Chain' – connections and creativity in challenging times**

Amid an unprecedented situation of lockdowns and concert cancellations, 'Musical Chain' is a powerful way of strengthening solidarity and community, both among the musicians of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic itself and among music lovers throughout Europe. The project is inspired by historic human chains, such as the Baltic Way, which was a peaceful political demonstration on 23 August 1989 when around two million people joined hands to form a human chain stretching more than 600km across the three Baltic states of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.



# Press Release

Were it not for the COVID-19 pandemic, the orchestra and Kristjan Järvi would have been on their 'Midnight Sun' tour of Poland, Germany and Russia at the beginning of July. With the tour postponed to March 2021, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic has transferred its activity online and, in keeping with its boundary-breaking spirit, is exploring new ways of communicating through digital media the energy, style and freedom of its live performances. Already the orchestra has 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. Now, with 'Musical Chain', the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is developing its own unique way of coming together to create new music from classic compositions. **Kristjan Järvi** says: 'The pandemic has put us into a situation where we have to come out of our normal groove and comfort zone, our usual structures, methods and routines. We have to create a completely new reason for being, and ask ourselves why we do what we do. Physically we can't produce the same energy in the same room, but we're creating a new way to convey our energy and spirit to people around the world who are inspired by what we do and the way we make music. "Musical Chain" is a great demonstration of how we're transforming from an orchestra into a band.'

## **'Rewritten Series' – musical gems recut for the 21st century**

The 'Rewritten Series' will involve at least 60 Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians in total. The first video, 'Midnight Mood', features 13 musicians. For each video, the musicians will make recordings based on themes and musical ideas from the original piece at home, and then the audio tracks will be combined and remixed by Kristjan Järvi, in his role as producer of the 'Musical Chain' project. The resulting recordings, giving classical music gems a cutting-edge spin, will be released as videos on Youtube and eventually as audio tracks on Spotify.

The pieces chosen for the 'Rewritten Series' each have a special resonance for the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. Sibelius's 'Song of Praise' is one of the orchestra's signature encores, and Beethoven, whose 250th anniversary is being celebrated this year, also features regularly on the orchestra's programmes. Music from Grieg's *Peer Gynt* is part of the programme for the orchestra's 'Nordic Pulse' tour, which is scheduled to go ahead this September with concerts in Germany and Italy, and the 'Midnight Sun' tour in March 2021. Following the release of



# Press Release

'Midnight Mood', the remaining instalments of the 'Rewritten Series' will go live over the coming weeks, taking the orchestra and Kristjan Järvi up to the moment when they plan to be back together on stage again, performing 'Nordic Pulse' at the Merano Music Festival on 10 September and the Usedom Music Festival on 12 September.

On the occasion of the German EU Council Presidency, 'Musical Chain – Unifying Europe Through Music' is supported by Germany's Minister of State for Culture and the Media.

## **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.

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### **'Musical Chain' videos in the 'Rewritten Series':**

'Midnight Mood' on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#)

### **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



## Press Release

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. 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. In July the orchestra and Kristjan Järvi launch 'Musical Chain', a new online format with a unique series of remix videos, featuring musical gems recut for the 21st century. [www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu](http://www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu)