



Press Release

Baltic Sea Philharmonic releases new ‘Musical Chain’ video – ‘Beethoven’s Twilight’, inspired by composer’s Symphony No. 5

- **Innovative digital collaboration brings together 21 orchestra musicians under creative direction of Kristjan Järvi**
- **Second release in orchestra’s ‘Rewritten Series’ of music videos, featuring original transformations and remixes of iconic classical pieces**
- **‘Musical Chain’ continues Baltic Sea Philharmonic’s drive to break boundaries and explore new formats**
- **Third release in series – Kristjan Järvi’s version of Sibelius’s ‘Song of Praise’ from *Swanwhite* – set for November**

Berlin 24 September 2020. The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** and **Kristjan Järvi** today release the second video in their innovative digital project **‘Musical Chain’**. The new video, [‘Beethoven’s Twilight’](#), is part of the orchestra’s **‘Rewritten Series’** featuring striking transformations and remixes of iconic classical pieces, and follows the release on 23 July of ‘Midnight Mood’, based on Grieg’s ‘Morning Mood’ from *Peer Gynt*. A cutting-edge electronics-infused take on Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5, ‘Beethoven’s Twilight’ features 21 musicians of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. The players made recordings at home under the creative direction of Kristjan Järvi, who then mixed the tracks and produced the final audio. The eye-catching video is unlike any other orchestral production: the musicians filmed themselves performing outside in atmospheric landscapes, and these scenes are intercut with emotive scenes of love, loss, pain and peace, along with elemental images of nature, cities and space. A professional production team edited the film, creating a dynamic and captivating video that reinvents the 1980s MTV aesthetic for the YouTube generation. ‘Beethoven’s Twilight’ is available to watch on the orchestra’s [social media channels](#).

‘Musical Chain’ – connections and creativity in challenging times

A symbol of unity and solidarity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and inspired by the human chains formed by people across the three Baltic States in August 1989, ‘Musical Chain’ brings together musicians from across Europe in a new kind of virtual orchestra collaboration. Launched in July, when the Baltic Sea Philharmonic would have been touring Poland,



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Germany and Russia were it not for the pandemic, 'Musical Chain' reflects the orchestra's boundary-breaking spirit and its dedication to communicating through digital media the energy, style and freedom of its live performances. **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.'

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

The 'Rewritten Series' will involve at least 60 Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians in total by the end of this year. The first video, ['Midnight Mood'](#), featured 13 musicians. Since its release on 23 July, 'Midnight Mood' has had over 30,000 views on Facebook and more than 20,000 views on YouTube. 'Midnight Mood' was also performed live with a full orchestra on the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's 'Nordic Pulse' tour of Italy and Germany earlier this month. In addition, the video of 'Midnight Mood' accompanied the orchestra's performances on the opening day of the 27th Usedom Music Festival on 19 September, when Kristjan Järvi and an ensemble of 14 Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians, who were replacing Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek at short notice, showcased their own unique take on jazz. The *Ostsee-Zeitung* praised the performance as 'art at the highest level, enchanting and accurate to the point'.

Music by Beethoven was also part of the orchestra's recent concert programmes, and for Kristjan Järvi, the opportunity to celebrate in live performance and with 'Beethoven's Twilight' this year's 250th anniversary of the composer's birth could not be more important given the global challenges today. He says: 'In this orchestra we have chosen to come together from many different Baltic Sea countries, overlooking all of our histories and differences and embracing our unity at a time when the world seems to be lacking in humanity. We are trying to escape and come together in something that is truly a vehicle of togetherness and love.' On the 'Musical Chain' remix 'Beethoven's Twilight', Järvi comments: 'If living today, Beethoven would have probably been the least likely to become a what we nowadays consider "classical" composer, but the first to rock the house! "Beethoven's Twilight" is my homage to his spirit, for what he stood and still stands for, which is people and their potential for ingenuity. Above all,



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he stood for humanity and their potential, when unified. This remix is channelling Beethoven's spirit from another dimension.'

The next video in the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's 'Rewritten Series' will be Kristjan Järvi's take on Sibelius's 'Song of Praise' from *Swanwhite*, a piece that has become one of the orchestra's favourite encores. This third video is set for release in November.

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':

'Beethoven's Twilight' on [YouTube](#) – 'Midnight Mood' on [YouTube](#)

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. The orchestra and Kristjan Järvi started 2020 with



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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