



# Press Release

**Berlin 20 November 2020.** The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** and **Kristjan Järvi** today release the third video in their innovative digital project '**Musical Chain**'. The new video, '[Ascending Swans](#)', featuring striking transformations and remixes of iconic classical pieces, and follows the release of '[Midnight Mood](#)', based on Grieg's 'Morning Mood' from *Peer Gynt*, and '[Beethoven's Twilight](#)', inspired by Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. 'Ascending Swans' was written and produced by Kristjan Järvi, and is based on the 'Song of Praise' from Sibelius's *Swanwhite* Suite, one of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's favourite encore pieces.

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic recorded the music for 'Ascending Swans' in Merano, Italy, in September 2020, during its 'Nordic Pulse' tour of Italy and Germany. Kristjan Järvi remixed the audio and a professional production team edited the video, which features 13 Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians who recorded themselves outdoors. These videos are interlaced with more stunning images that celebrate the nature and landscape of the North as autumn turns to winter. Calming and uplifting, elemental and spiritual, '[Ascending Swans](#)' reflects the grace, purity and strength of the eponymous birds, many thousands of which fly south from the Arctic in October and November, leaving their summer breeding grounds for warmer climes. 'Ascending Swans' is available to watch from today 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 2020, '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 put us into a situation where we've had to come out of our normal groove and comfort zone, our usual structures, methods and routines. 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 gems recut for the 21st century**

The start of the "Musical Chain" project is the "Rewritten Series", in which a total of four music



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videos will be released by the end of 2020. The series of music videos launched with the Grieg-inspired [‘Midnight Mood’](#), which featured 13 musicians under the creative direction of Kristjan Järvi. Since its release on 23 July, ‘Midnight Mood’ has had 30,000 views on Facebook and 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 in September. 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.

The second video in the series, [‘Beethoven’s Twilight’](#), was released on 24 September. This cutting-edge, electronics-infused take on Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5 featured 21 musicians from the orchestra and has been watched 27,000 times on Facebook and 14,000 times on YouTube. Beethoven’s fifth Symphony was also part of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic’s recent concert programmes, in celebration of this year’s 250th anniversary of the composer’s birth.

The fourth and final ‘Musical Chain’ video of 2020, will be based on Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker*. A seasonal gift from Kristjan Järvi and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, the video is set for release on 11 December. “Musical Chain” will continue in 2021.

## **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, technology, choreography and performed by heart, 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.