

Press Release

Baltic Sea Philharmonic to make Romanian debut and debut collaborations in August 2021 at Enescu Festival, Bucharest

- **Concerts on 30 and 31 August with Kristjan Järvi will be orchestra's first live performances since September 2020**
- **Debut collaborations with pianist Maria João Pires and violinist Viktoria Mullova**
- **Concerts featuring music by Kristjan Järvi, Mozart, Enescu, Arvo Pärt and Tchaikovsky will be performed from memory**
- **Orchestra to follow Bucharest performances with 'Nordic Swans' tour of Italy, Slovenia, Germany and Poland from 3 to 12 September**

Berlin 27 May 2021. The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** is excitedly preparing for its debut in Romania in August, when it will perform two concerts at the prestigious **Enescu Festival** in Bucharest. It will be their first, long awaited live performances after an enforced break since September 2020 due to the Corona pandemic. 'This will be a very emotional experience at the Enescu Festival as it will be our first live performance in a year', says **Kristjan Järvi**, Founding Conductor and Music Director.

In Bucharest the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will be collaborating for the first time with renowned pianist **Maria João Pires** and leading violinist **Viktoria Mullova** in two different programmes: '**Aurora**' (30 August) and '**Nordic Swans**' (31 August). The first of these features Kristjan Järvi's *Aurora*, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 and Enescu's Symphony No. 2. The second programme comprises three pieces by Arvo Pärt – *Swansong*, *Fratres* and the *Passacaglia* for violin, vibraphone and strings – together with Kristjan Järvi's arrangement of Tchaikovskysy's *Swan Lake* as a dramatic symphony.

The concerts will be performed from memory in the orchestra's borderless and innovative spirit which make the performances of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic unique experiences. Järvi looks forward to performing in Bucharest: 'We are very happy to come to the Enescu Festival. I performed at the festival a few years ago and came away with fantastic impressions. Romania is a diverse country, and is an example for what Europe stands for. And in bringing the Baltic Sea Philharmonic to the Black Sea region, from one sea to another, we will show that we're not only connected by water, but also by song and dance.'



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Touring with 'Nordic Swans' in September

Depending on the progress of the pandemic and also on travel regulations and local authority requirements, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi will take **'Nordic Swans'** on tour to **Italy, Slovenia, Germany and Poland** immediately after concerts at the Enescu Festival. The new programme for the tour will enhance the swan theme, with Sibelius's *The Swan of Tuonela* featuring alongside Pärt's *Swansong* and Järvi's dramatic-symphony arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. Following two days of rehearsals in Bucharest, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will begin its 'Nordic Swans' tour on 3 September in Italy at the Merano Music Festival. The tour will include the orchestra's Slovenian debut at an outdoor concert in Ljubljana on 6 September, as well as a special performance at the Usedom Music Festival on 11 September. 'Nordic Swans' will conclude in Szczecin, Poland, on 12 September, with the orchestra's first performance in the strikingly designed Szczecin Philharmonic Hall.

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 playing by heart, and under the electrifying baton of Music Director and Founding Conductor Kristjan Järvi every performance has a special energy that is 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:

'Aurora' and 'Nordic Swans', August 2021

Monday, 30 August 2021, 5.00pm, Bucharest (Enescu Festival), Romania ('Aurora')

Tuesday, 31 August 2021, 5.00pm, Bucharest (Enescu Festival), Romania ('Nordic Swans')



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Aurora

Baltic Sea Philharmonic
Kristjan Järvi
Maria João Pires

Kristjan Järvi: *Aurora*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 9 in E flat major K. 271

George Enescu: Symphony No. 2 in A major Op.17

Nordic Swans

Baltic Sea Philharmonic
Kristjan Järvi
Viktoria Mullova

Arvo Pärt: *Swansong*

Arvo Pärt: *Fratres*

Arvo Pärt: *Passacaglia* for violin, vibraphone and strings

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Swan Lake* – Dramatic symphony arranged by Kristjan Järvi

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's growing discography with Kristjan Järvi includes three acclaimed recordings for Sony Classical, the most recent of which was Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*, newly arranged by Järvi as a dramatic symphony, and released in November 2020. In 2021 the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will continue its innovative digital project 'Musical Chain', launched in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This unique series of classical remix videos brings musicians from the orchestra together with international artists and creative collaborators. The orchestra plans to return to live performance in summer 2021 with a Romanian debut at the Enescu Festival in Bucharest in August and a tour of Italy, Slovenia, Germany and Poland in September.

www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu