

Press Release

Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi receive multiple nominations for OPUS KLASSIK 2021 awards

- Nominations in eight categories, including 'Ensemble/Orchestra of the Year', 'Symphonic Recording of the Year', 'Innovative Concert of the Year' and 'Conductor of the Year'
- Nominations of Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi based on Sony Classical albums *Sleeping Beauty* and *Glass & Stravinsky Violin Concertos* as well as BMG album *Nordic Escapes*
- Orchestra plans 2021 tours after gradual reopening of cultural life

Berlin 7 June 2021. The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** and **Kristjan Järvi** have been nominated in eight categories for the **OPUS KLASSIK 2021**, the new prize for classical music in Germany. No fewer than three albums by the orchestra and its Founding Conductor – *Sleeping Beauty* and *Glass & Stravinsky Violin Concertos*, both released on Sony Classical in 2020, as well as the BMG album *Nordic Escapes* (2020) – are nominated in various categories. Such broad recognition is a reward for the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's passionate and creative work in a year full of challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With *Sleeping Beauty*, a new arrangement of Tchaikovsky's famous ballet music as a 70-minute dramatic symphony by Kristjan Järvi, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic has been selected in the categories 'Ensemble/Orchestra of the Year' and 'Symphonic Recording of the Year'. Kristjan Järvi is nominated as 'Conductor of the Year' with all three albums and also as 'Composer of the Year' with *Nordic Escapes*. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic also made it into the 'Concerto Recording of the Year' category with *Glass & Stravinsky Violin Concertos*, for which the young Swiss violinist David Nebel, the soloist on the album, was also nominated in the 'Young Artist of the Year' category. Kristjan Järvi's album *Nordic Escapes* is further nominated in the categories as 'Innovative Concert of the Year' and 'Classic without Limits'.

An independent jury for the OPUS KLASSIK 2021 will select the winners of the 25 award categories by October. The festive awards ceremony will take place with a TV gala at the Konzerthaus Berlin on 10 October. The OPUS KLASSIK is awarded annually by the Association for the Promotion of Classical Music. Its members include labels, promoters, publishers and individuals from the classical music world.

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Ahead in 2021: Enescu Festival in Bucharest and 'Nordic Swans' tour

As cultural life gradually opens up again, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic is looking forward to touring again soon in 2021. The orchestra, together with Kristjan Järvi, is preparing for its debut in Romania in August, where it will perform two concerts at the prestigious **Enescu Festival** in Bucharest. These will be the orchestra's first live performances since September 2020, after unavoidable disruptions due to the pandemic. In Bucharest, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will collaborate for the first time with world-renowned pianist **Maria João Pires** and leading violinist **Victoria Mullova** in two different programmes: 'Aurora' (30 August) and 'Nordic Swans' (31 August). After two days of rehearsals in Bucharest and depending on the course of the pandemic and the status of local authority regulations, the **'Nordic Swans' tour** will begin at the Merano Music Festival on 3 September. Among the highlights of this tour are the ensemble's Slovenian debut in an open-air concert in Ljubljana on 6 September, and a special concert at the Usedom Music Festival on 11 September. 'Nordic Swans' celebrates its grand finale in Szczecin on 12 September with the orchestra's debut in the Philharmonic Hall, which was built only a few years ago.

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

Alexander Datz, Press Officer, Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation e.V.

Mobile: +49 176 741 61 157

alexander.datz@bmef.eu, www.bmef.eu

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Notes to editors:

OPUS KLASSIK 2021 Nominations

Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi

[Category 8, Ensemble/Orchestra of the Year](#)

[Category 11, Concerto Recording of the Year, *Glass & Stravinsky Violin Concertos* nominated](#)

[Category 14, Symphonic Recording of the Year, *Sleeping Beauty* nominated](#)

[Category 4, Conductor of the Year, Kristjan Järvi nominated](#)

Kristjan Järvi

[Category 5, Composer of the Year, *Nordic Escapes* album](#)

[Category 13, Classic without Limits, *Nordic Escapes* album](#)

[Category 18, Innovative Concert of the Year, *Nordic Escapes* album](#)

David Nebel together with Kristjan Järvi and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic

[Category 7, Young Artist of the Year](#)

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