

Press Release

New Max Richter album **EXILES** with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi to release today on Deutsche Grammophon

- **Orchestra's first collaboration with Max Richter, recorded in Kristjan Järvi's home city of Tallinn, Estonia, in September 2019**
- **Max Richter and Kristjan Järvi: Music and orchestral culture have important social tasks**
- **Album features new recordings of previously released Max Richter works, including pieces from *The Blue Notebooks*, *Waltz with Bashir* and *Infra***
- **Orchestra's country-bonding mission resonates with the socio-political dimension of the new album**

Berlin 6 August 2021. Today marks the release of the new Max Richter album **EXILES**, the label debut of the **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** on **Deutsche Grammophon** ([Album-Link](#)). **Kristjan Järvi** and the orchestra perform new recordings of pieces from earlier albums by the British-German composer, as well as works originally composed as ballet scores. **EXILES**, which also addresses important contemporary issues of war, displacement and flight and it is the orchestra's first major collaboration with Max Richter. Besides '**Exiles**', a reflection on the humanitarian catastrophe of the refugee crisis in two parts, the album also contains '**The Haunted Ocean**' from *Waltz with Bashir*; '**Infra 5**' from *Infra*; '**Flowers of Herself**' from *Woolf Works*; '**On the Nature of Daylight**' from *The Blue Notebooks*; and '**Sunlight**' from *Songs from Before*.

That the composer chose the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi for his new album is no coincidence, as he told the British Guardian: 'The refugee crisis is still with us in different forms,' **Max Richter** said, 'These kinds of transnational problems call for collaboration, they call for a fundamental working together, and a rethinking of what boundaries and borders even mean in 2021.' The themes of exile, flight and borders, he said, led him to the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, which gathers musicians from all the countries of the entire Baltic Sea region, historically divided by wars and politics. The fearlessness and pioneering spirit with which the orchestra develops innovative forms of performance, does not passively dwell on the traditional, and always carries out its mission to overcome borders in the performance and presentation of music, made the Baltic Sea Philharmonic a perfect partner for his compositions, which he calls 'activist music'.

It was also this joy of creative discovery that brought Max Richter, Kristjan Järvi and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic together in September 2019. **EXILES** was recorded at the studio of Estonian Public Broadcasting in Järvi's home city of Tallinn, Estonia, in the presence of the composer. The album represents the orchestra's first major collaboration with Max Richter, although his compositions

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have previously featured on the programmes of Baltic Sea Philharmonic concerts. Richter and Järvi have worked together on various other projects, including with the MDR Symphony Orchestra in Leipzig, when Järvi was the orchestra's chief conductor and Richter was artist in residence for its 2016/17 season.

Lights of openness and unity

Max Richter composed the main work on the album, the 33-minute 'Exiles', for the Nederlands Dans Theater, and the music had its premiere in 2017 as the score for a dance work called *Singulière Odyssée*. Like some other Richter works, 'Exiles' has a socio-political dimension, in that it is a personal response to the humanitarian disaster of the migrant crisis and the plight of Syrian refugees. Kristjan Järvi and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic take up this theme and in doing so also reflect their own points of view. Tearing down the borders and ideological walls between East and West are still important concerns for conductor and orchestra. 'Every orchestra is a microcosm of society, and our society is completely non-hierarchical,' says Kristjan Järvi, who went into exile in America from Soviet Estonia with his family while still a child in the late 1970s. 'Borders no longer exist here, because today the Baltic Sea is the kit that holds all the countries EU or non-EU, Slavic or non-Slavic together as a cultural unit. Here the states are reborn as one orchestra.'

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:

Max Richter: *EXILES* Deutsche Grammophon

Recorded at Eesti Rahvusringhääling (Estonian Public Broadcasting), Tallinn, Estonia, September 2019

Music Composed by Max Richter
Orchestra Baltic Sea Philharmonic
Conductor Kristjan Järvi

Tracklist

Exiles Pt. 1
Exiles Pt. 2
The Haunted Ocean (from *Waltz with Bashir*)
Infra 5 (from *Infra*)
Flowers of Herself (from *Woolf Works*)
On the Nature of Daylight (from *The Blue Notebooks*)
Sunlight (from *Songs from Before*)

Link to the album: [EXILES on Deutsche Grammophon](#)
Max Richter on '[Exiles](#)'

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