

Press Release

Baltic Sea Philharmonic single ‘Ascending Swans’ out today on Estonian label nEscapes

- **Written and produced by Kristjan Järvi, inspired by Sibelius’s ‘Song of Praise’ from *Swanwhite Suite***
- **Music track from third video in orchestra’s innovative ‘Musical Chain’ series of classical remix videos**
- **nEscapes to release further singles from ‘Musical Chain’ series in late 2021 and early 2022**

Berlin 24 September 2021. The music track of [‘Ascending Swans’](#), the **Baltic Sea Philharmonic’s** third video in its innovative digital project **‘Musical Chain’**, is released today as a single by Estonian label **nEscapes**. The ‘Musical Chain’ series of music videos features striking orchestral transformations of iconic classical pieces, and the music for ‘Ascending Swans’ is based on the ‘Song of Praise’ from Sibelius’s *Swanwhite Suite*, one of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic’s favourite encore pieces. **Kristjan Järvi** composed and produced the track, which was recorded by the orchestra in Merano, Italy, in September 2020, during its ‘Nordic Pulse’ tour. ‘Ascending Swans’ is the first single from the ‘Musical Chain’ series to be released on nEscapes. More tracks from the series will be released on the label later this year and in 2022.

Grace and strength in sound and on screen

The ‘Ascending Swans’ video was released on the Baltic Sea Philharmonic’s social media channels in November 2020. It has since had almost 32,000 views on YouTube and 37,000 views on Facebook, making it the most popular video of the ‘Musical Chain’ series so far. The video combines outdoor footage of 13 musicians from the orchestra with stunning images that celebrate the nature and landscape of the North as autumn turns to winter. ‘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. The swan is a cherished bird of Nordic culture, and is an inspiration to the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi, whose **‘Nordic Swans’** tour of Italy, Slovenia, Germany and Poland to internationally renowned festivals earlier this month (3–12 September) featured Arvo Pärt’s *Swansong*, Sibelius’s *The Swan of Tuonela* and Järvi’s own adaptation of Tchaikovsky’s *Swan Lake* as dramatic symphony.



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Musical gems recut for the 21st century

The 'Musical Chain' series of music videos launched in July 2020 with ['Midnight Mood'](#), based on Grieg's 'Morning Mood' from *Peer Gynt*. The second video, ['Beethoven's Twilight'](#), which was released in September 2020, is a cutting-edge, electronics-infused take on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Following the release of 'Ascending Swans', the series continued in December 2020 with ['Nutty Christmas'](#), a fun seasonal take on Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* in which the 'Dance of the Reed Pipes' and the 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy' are transformed into the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's very own Christmas cracker.

'Musical Chain' reflects the orchestra's boundary-breaking spirit, its passion for innovative collaborations, and its dedication to communicating through digital media the energy, style and freedom of its live performances. It is also a symbol of unity and solidarity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic: inspired by the human chain formed by people across the three Baltic States in August 1989, it brings together musicians from across Europe with other artistic collaborators and professional video producers. The latest video in the series, ['Midnight Sun'](#), released in August 2021, takes 'Musical Chain' in a new creative direction, with original music written and produced by Kristjan Järvi and visuals that combine monochrome images of nature and landscapes with eye-catching geometric animations. The music track of 'Midnight Sun' was also released as a single, in both a radio edit and a long version, on BMG/Modern Recordings.

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'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



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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' singles on nEscapes:

['Ascending Swans'](#), 24 September 2021

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 returned 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