



Press Release

Baltic Sea Philharmonic empowers its musicians to explore new creative path with its 'Musical Chain – Producers Edition'

- **First track *Hollow in the tree*, released today, showcases Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians as composers, producers and video artists**
- **Track composed by Lithuanian violist Mintautas Kriščiūnas and Polish harpist Zuzanna Wąsiewicz, with music video by German tuba player Ludwig Angerhöfer**
- ***Hollow in the tree* recorded by Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi on island of Usedom in September 2021**
- **'Musical Chain – Producers Edition' tracks to be released on Estonian label nEscapes, with accompanying music videos on orchestra's social media channels**

Berlin 8 April 2022. The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** today releases a new single in its 'Musical Chain' series: [*Hollow in the tree*](#). Composed by orchestra members **Mintautas Kriščiūnas** and **Zuzanna Wąsiewicz**, the track is out now on Estonian independent label nEscapes. An accompanying music video, produced and directed by another member of the orchestra, **Ludwig Angerhöfer**, is available to watch on the [orchestra's social media channels](#). An engaging fusion of electronic textures and orchestral soundscapes, the music for *Hollow in the tree* was recorded by the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and **Kristjan Järvi** on the island of Usedom in September 2021 during the orchestra's 'Nordic Swans' tour of Italy, Slovenia, Germany and Poland. Further tracks written and produced by Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians as part of the 'Producers Edition, an expansion of the 'Musical Chain' series, will be released on nEscapes later in 2022 with accompanying music videos.

Empowering creativity and collaboration

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic's '[Musical Chain](#)' series of collaborative music videos launched in July 2020 as a way of bringing musicians of the orchestra together virtually during the pandemic lockdowns and connecting them creatively with other artists and video producers. In the summer of 2021, the project was extended with the '**Producers Edition**', which invited Baltic Sea Philharmonic musicians to create their own music and videos and gave them the opportunity to showcase their talents as composers, producers, scriptwriters, sound engineers and videographers. After submitting their ideas for music and video projects, selected musicians collaborated in small teams to compose and produce their tracks and bring their



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stories alive on video. At a dedicated recording session in Usedom, the composers worked with Kristjan Järvi and professional sound engineers to record their creations. The musicians selected to produce and direct films for the music tracks worked under the guidance of professional videographers who have collaborated regularly with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. Through the 'Producers Edition', members of the orchestra have learned new skills and tools and developed collaborative ways of working, as well as growing their entrepreneurial potential.

Behind the scenes

With *Hollow in the tree*, Lithuanian violist Mintautas Kriščiūnas and Polish harpist Zuzanna Wąsiewicz have created a compelling union of electronic music, layered acoustic harp and the sound of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. They describe the piece as reflecting the human condition in an ever-changing modern world in which nature struggles to survive in the face of mechanical and destructive human development. The conflict between these two forces comes through in the climax of the piece, but throughout the work the peace and strength of nature offers a constant flow and drive, as well as a sense of hope.

For Wąsiewicz, *Hollow in the tree* was a departure from composing purely acoustic music. 'This project was the first time I had worked with electronics and effects,' she says, 'but as with my previous compositions and arrangements I could draw on my musical imagination. *Hollow in the tree* is also the first work I've ever had released, so I'm very excited.' Kriščiūnas is no stranger to releasing his own music but jumped at the chance to be part of the 'Producers Edition'. 'I've learned so much already as a member of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic,' he says. 'It's been a great opportunity to grow as a musician, so I had no hesitation to join this project. So many people worked on creating the track, and I'm happy that we can share it now with everybody.'

German tuba player Ludwig Angerhöfer responded to the flow and forward motion of the *Hollow in the tree* music with a video that captures the power of nature, and especially the energy of water, but also showcases the musicians of the orchestra. He filmed in five countries, including Latvia, where one location was Europe's widest waterfall, and he also shot under water. He says: 'As a tuba player, I'm used to being at the back of the orchestra,



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providing the fundamental bass but not always contributing throughout a piece. The “Producers Edition” was a great opportunity to create something whole myself, to step out to the front and showcase more of my abilities, and release some more of my creative potential.’

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.

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‘Musical Chain’ singles on nEscapes:

[‘Ascending Swans’](#), 24 September 2021

[‘Beethoven’s Twilight’](#), 5 November 2021

[‘Nutty Christmas’](#), 3 December 2021

[‘Midnight Mood’](#), 28 January 2022

[‘Hollow in the tree’](#), 8 April 2022

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 on the joint initiative of the Usedom Music Festival. 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’. In 2016 the orchestra was renamed the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. Since then it 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



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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 addition, Max Richter's album *EXILES*, recorded by the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi, was released in August 2021 on Deutsche Grammophon. In 2022 the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will continue its innovative digital project 'Musical Chain', which it launched in 2020 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. Following its 'Nordic Swans' tour of Belgium, Germany and Poland in March 2022, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi will next be touring in the second half of 2022, with a return to Peenemünde for the Usedom Music Festival in September, and a tour of Switzerland in December. The orchestra's concert programmes in the second half of the year will feature a new inspired arrangement by Kristjan Järvi of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet *The Nutcracker*. www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu