



# Press Release

## **Baltic Sea Philharmonic celebrates Kristjan Järvi's 50th birthday ahead of concerts at Pärnu Music Festival in Estonia in July**

- **Founding Conductor and Music Director of the Baltic Sea Philharmonic since 2008, Kristjan Järvi turns 50 on 13 June**
- **Järvi will conduct Baltic Sea Philharmonic in July at Pärnu Music Festival, which also marks Neeme Järvi's 85th birthday and Paavo Järvi's 60th birthday**
- **Orchestra to perform four concerts in four days in Pärnu, Tallinn and Laulasmaa**

**Berlin 9 June 2022.** The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** is celebrating the 50th birthday of its Founding Conductor and Music Director **Kristjan Järvi** this month. Järvi, who turns 50 on 13 June, has directed the Baltic Sea Philharmonic since its formation in 2008, and has built the ensemble's reputation as a powerful engine of innovation, creative freedom and risk-taking on the international orchestral scene. Through his work with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, Järvi has inspired a generation of musicians to step out of their comfort zone and find their voice as performers, creators, composers, producers and entrepreneurs. He has shown the members of the orchestra, and audiences around the world, that on the musical stage anything is possible, from performing entire concert programmes from memory to using cutting-edge lighting design and digital soundscapes to transform the concert experience. And as a recording artist he is as prolific and eclectic at the age of 50 as he ever has been, releasing albums of Tchaikovsky and Max Richter with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, mixing and producing the orchestra's 'Musical Chain' series of singles and music videos, releasing the first album of his original compositions, and establishing his own record label, all in the last two years.

### **Back home for birthday festivities**

As a proud Estonian, Kristjan Järvi is excited to be bringing the Baltic Sea Philharmonic to Estonia in July for the **Pärnu Music Festival** in Estonia in July. The Järvi family will be reunited in the seaside resort town of Pärnu, with Neeme Järvi conducting the festival opening concert, Paavo Järvi conducting the Estonian Festival Orchestra, and Kristjan Järvi and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic giving four concerts in as many days.



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## **Celebration and education**

As well as marking Kristjan Järvi's birthday during the Pärnu Music Festival, the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will be supporting the training of young musicians selected for the **Järvi Academy**, which is an inseparable part of the festival experience. Students on this year's Järvi Academy Conducting course will have coaching sessions with Neeme Järvi, Paavo Järvi, Kristjan Järvi and Leonid Grin, and will take part in three **Masterclass Concerts** with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. The first of these is at the Arvo Pärt Centre in **Laulasmaa** on 12 July and will feature music by the renowned Estonian composer. Two more masterclass concerts with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will take place in **Tallinn** (12 July) and **Pärnu** (14 July), both featuring music by Ravel, Stravinsky and Bartók.

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic's main festival concert with Kristjan Järvi in Pärnu on 15 July has the theme '**Nordic Amazonia**' and will feature *Aguas da Amazonia* by **Philip Glass** and pieces by **Kristjan Järvi** from his album *Nordic Escapes*, which was released on BMG/Modern Recordings in 2020. The orchestra will be joined for the performance of Järvi's *Aurora* and *Nebula* by Swiss violinist **David Nebel**, who recorded both pieces for the *Nordic Escapes* album. The 'Nordic Amazonia' concert will be performed in signature Baltic Sea Philharmonic style, completely from memory, and as one flow of music with no breaks or interval. The concert will celebrate the 85th birthday (in January this year) of Philip Glass and the 50th birthday of Kristjan Järvi.

## **A return to Estonia in September**

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi will be back in Tallinn later this year as part of their '**Meresillad**' tour of Germany and Estonia (15–21 September). The tour, the Estonian language title of which translates as 'sea bridges', celebrates Estonia, which as one of the most progressive and innovative Nordic countries is a natural fit with the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. The tour programme includes music by Estonian composers past and present, with works by **Eduard Tubin** (1905–1982) and **Jään Raats** (1932–2020) as well as **Liis Jürgens**, who is a harpist in the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. The programme will also feature Kristjan Järvi's Dramatic Symphony version of **Tchaikovsky's** *Nutcracker*. This completes his trilogy of reworkings of the Russian composer's ballets, after *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*. Following concerts in Eisenach (15 September) and at the opening of the Usedom Music



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Festival (17 September), which dedicates its 2022 season to Estonia, the 'Meresillad' tour will conclude in Tallinn on 21 September with a concert at the Estonia Concert 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:**

#### **Baltic Sea Philharmonic at Pärnu Music Festival, Estonia, 12–15 July**

##### **Järvi Academy Masterclass Concert**

Tuesday, 12 July 2022, 1.00pm, Laulasmaa (Arvo Pärt Centre), Estonia

Participants and teachers of Järvi Academy  
**Baltic Sea Philharmonic**

Works by Arvo Pärt

##### **Järvi Academy Masterclass Concerts**

Tuesday, 12 July 2022, 7.00pm, Tallinn (St. John's Church), Estonia  
Thursday, 14 July 2022, 8.00pm, Pärnu (Pärnu Concert Hall), Estonia

Participants and teachers of Järvi Academy  
**Baltic Sea Philharmonic**

Maurice Ravel: *Le tombeau de Couperin*  
Igor Stravinsky: Concerto 'Dumbarton Oaks'  
Béla Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances Sz. 68



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## **'Nordic Amazonia'**

with music by Philip Glass and Kristjan Järvi

### **Baltic Sea Philharmonic & Kristjan Järvi**

Friday, 15 July 2022, 8.00pm, Pärnu (Pärnu Concert Hall), Estonia

#### **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 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. In 2022 the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will once again be able to travel thousands of kilometres around Europe, beginning in March with a tour of 'Nordic Swans' to Belgium, Germany and Poland. In July and August the orchestra and Kristjan Järvi will perform special concerts at the Pärnu Music Festival and the Birgitta Festival in Estonia. In the second half of 2022 the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will once again bring the magical power of fairy tales to life. Kristjan Järvi's own reworking of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* showcases the quintessential colour and drama of the great Russian composer's theatre music. The programme including the *Nutcracker* among others will be performed at the Usedom Music Festival and in Tallinn in September as well as on a tour of Switzerland in December. [www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu](http://www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu)