



Press Release

Olga Scheps, Kristjan Järvi and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic to tour Germany and Switzerland in December with ‘Nutcracker Reimagined’ concert experience

- **Orchestra will return to Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie and then perform in Zurich, Geneva and Bern**
- **New programme showcases Järvi’s reworking of Tchaikovsky’s Christmas favourite *Nutcracker* as a Dramatic Symphony**
- **Concert experience also includes Grieg’s Piano Concerto with soloist Olga Scheps**
- **Baltic Sea Philharmonic to perform entire programme from memory, as one flow of music, with smooth transitions and no intermission**

Berlin 15 June 2022. The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** and **Kristjan Järvi** will take the seasonal concert to a new dimension on their ‘**Nutcracker Reimagined**’ tour of **Germany** and **Switzerland** in December. Performing four concerts in four days, the orchestra travels to Hamburg, Zurich, Geneva and Bern with a new programme that has as its spectacular climax Järvi’s own arrangement of **Tchaikovsky**’s final ballet and Christmas favourite *The Nutcracker*. Russian-German pianist **Olga Scheps** joins the Baltic Sea Philharmonic to perform **Grieg**’s Piano Concerto. The orchestra will play the entire programme in signature Baltic Sea Philharmonic style – completely from memory, with no music stands on stage and with most of the musicians standing up and free to move and interact with each other. There will be no intermission and the music will flow from one work to the next with smooth transitions.

Hamburg return and Swiss debuts

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic opens its ‘Nutcracker Reimagined’ tour at the **Elbphilharmonie** in Hamburg on 11 December. The performance will be the orchestra’s fourth at this already iconic concert venue. The ensemble and Kristjan Järvi featured in the Elbphilharmonie’s first season in 2017 with their groundbreaking ‘Waterworks’ concert experience, and next performed there in June 2019. A critic of the *Hamburger Abendblatt* praised the orchestra then as a ‘completely different league’. The Baltic Sea Philharmonic then joined British rock band Bastille for a charity concert in January 2020. The orchestra was scheduled to return to the Elbphilharmonie in September 2020 and March 2021 but both concerts had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.



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The Baltic Sea Philharmonic follows up its Elbphilharmonie concert on 11 December with a debut tour of Switzerland, travelling first to Zurich for a performance at the Tonhalle Zurich (12 December), and then performing at Victoria Hall in Geneva (13 December) and finally at Casino Bern in the Swiss capital (14 December). Tickets for the concerts in [Zurich](#), [Bern](#) and [Hamburg](#) are already on sale. Tickets for the performance in Geneva will go on sale in September.

Christmas comes early with a newly transformed *Nutcracker*

Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet *The Nutcracker* is a seasonal favourite, and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will wrap up this musical Christmas treasure in the imaginative shape of a Dramatic Symphony, arranged by Kristjan Järvi. With this reworking, Järvi completes his transformations of Tchaikovsky's three ballets, after his previous arrangements of *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. As with those reworkings, this Dramatic Symphony showcases all the quintessential colour and drama of Tchaikovsky's theatre music. The new *Nutcracker* will have its debut on the Baltic Sea Philharmonic's 'Meresillad' tour of Germany and Estonia in September, before the orchestra presents it as a seasonal spectacular in Hamburg, Zurich, Geneva and Bern.

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic is excited to be joined for the first time by pianist Olga Scheps in Grieg's Piano Concerto, an enduringly popular work that was written by the Norwegian composer when he was just 25 years old. Scheps is an ECHO Klassik award-winning soloist, with her debut album *Chopin* garnering her the Newcomer of the Year award in 2010 at the age of 24. Since 2009 she has been an exclusive Sony Classical artist, and has recorded nine albums for the label.

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



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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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'Nutcracker Reimagined' Tour – 11-14 December 2022

Sunday 11 December 2022, 8.00pm, Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg (Germany)
Monday 12 December 2022, 7.30pm, Tonhalle Zurich, Zurich (Switzerland)
Tuesday 13 December 2022, 7.30pm, Victoria Hall, Geneva (Switzerland)
Wednesday 14 December 2022, 7.30pm, Casino Bern, Bern (Switzerland)

Tickets for Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg: <https://www.elbphilharmonie.de/de/programm/baltic-sea-philharmonic-olga-scheps-kristjan-jarvi/19020>

Ticket prices: 82 EUR | 71 EUR | 49 EUR | 35 EUR | 20 EUR

Baltic Sea Philharmonic

Kristjan Järvi

Olga Scheps (piano)

Programme:

Edvard Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor Op. 16

Tchaikovsky: *Nutcracker*. Dramatic Symphony arranged by Kristjan Järvi

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



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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 Germany and Switzerland in December. www.baltic-sea-philharmonic.eu