

Press Release

Baltic Sea Philharmonic and Kristjan Järvi -make debut with ‘The Tempest’ at the Birgitta Festival in Tallinn

- **Musicians will perform both text and music of the famous masterpiece ‘The Tempest’**
- **Orchestra to return to Tallinn in September as part of Estonia-focused ‘Meresillad’ tour**

Berlin 8 August 2022. The **Baltic Sea Philharmonic** will make its debut in a monastery, located in the district of Pirita in Tallinn on 12 August – an open-air concert in the historic ruins of the Pirita Convent. Building on the tradition of the Birgitta Festival as music theatre festival, **Kristjan Järvi** and the orchestra will bring to stage their vision of William Shakespeare’s renowned **‘The Tempest’**, written at the beginning of the seventeenth century. 300 years later **Sibelius** created a masterpiece from Shakespeare’s material that is considered one of the Finnish composer’s greatest works because of its amazing wealth of ideas and invention. The concert will be enriched with music written by Kristjan Järvi including *Midnight Sun*, *Aurora* and *Frozen Tears* creating an atmosphere ‘filled with fantasy, magic, captivating irreality, and poignance’ according to Järvi. The conductor and orchestra members will perform both the text by Shakespeare and the music by Sibelius, by using their instruments and their voices. What is special about the performance: It is a co-creation of musicians, in which the entire orchestra plays the co-director’s part and everything will be played in the orchestras signature style, entirely from memory, with smooth transitions and without intermission. The concert will be accompanied by special lighting and sound design. The audio-visual script has been created by Sunbeam Productions.

Returning to Estonia in September

Kristjan Järvi and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic will be back in Tallinn on 21 September. This is the final destination on the Baltic Sea Philharmonic’s **‘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 **Jaan Rääts** (1932–2020) as well as **Liis Jürgens**, who is a harpist in the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. The programme will also feature Kristjan Järvi’s arrangement of **Tchaikovsky’s** *Nutcracker* as a Dramatic Symphony. This completes his trilogy of reworkings of the Russian



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composer's ballets, after *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

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.

'The Tempest', Birgitta Festival, 12 August 2022

Baltic Sea Philharmonic
Kristjan Järvi

Friday 12 August 2022, 7 pm, Pirita kloostri varemed, Birgitta Festival, Tallinn (Estonia)

William Shakespeare / Jean Sibelius / Kristjan Järvi: "The Tempest"

[Ticket-Link](#)

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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



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