

YOUNG EURO CLASSIC

44 Nations/1400 Musicians/18 Days of Concerts – Young Euro Classic Festival of the World's Best Youth Orchestras August 6–23, 2015 at Berlin's Konzerthaus / Tickets on Sale April 16

Berlin, April 16, 2015 – Back to the roots! After its fascinating and successful excursion last year – when the festival moved to Berlin's Philharmonie and Admiralspalast for one season – it returns to its beloved "headquarters": from August 6 to 23, the world's best youth orchestras present themselves at the Konzerthaus on Berlin's Gendarmenmarkt. About 1400 outstanding young artists will prove their mettle, and some of the festival's long-standing favourites will be able to demonstrate their artistic growth.

Back to the roots: that is also true for the programme! More than some recent seasons, the 2015 edition of Young Euro Classic features large-scale symphony orchestras and the corresponding repertoire, performed with youthful enthusiasm and a passion that is far from routine. The festival focuses and concentrates on those elements that have won it a faithful, enthusiastic audience since its first season in 2000: every orchestra is charged to bring its own interpretations of works from the centuries-old European orchestral tradition to the stage, but also music from its home region and new works whenever possible. In 2015, Young Euro Classic features 11 world or German premieres.

Naturally, in these times of conflict and strife, the political vision of peaceful cooperation through music also marks the 16th edition of Young Euro Classic: to minimize xenophobia by awakening interest – to build bridges where politically, there are none right now. For the festival finale, Young Euro Classic is planning an initiative of musical diplomacy: the foundation of a "Peace Orchestra" uniting young musicians from the Ukraine, Russia, Germany and Armenia as a symbol of peaceful cooperation and international understanding. Before that, the Orchestra of the Music Academy in Kiev gives its own concert, performing Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2, the so-called "Ukrainian Symphony", as well as two German premieres of contemporary Ukrainian works.

The festival opens on Thursday, August 6, with the German-Israeli "Young Philharmonic Orchestra Jerusalem Weimar": under Michael Sanderling's baton, it plays works by Kurt Weill and Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky and a new work by the Israeli composer Ziv Cojocar.

Once again, Young Euro Classic stands for the rarely heard: the "Central Asian Youth Orchestra" unites young artists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; the "I, Culture Orchestra" brings together musicians from Poland, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine. Their programmes feature Rossini and Rachmaninov, but also works by artists such as Arvet Terterian, whose music is rarely performed in Germany.

Tomorrow's musicians today: European classical music, young and intercultural, open to dialogue with other genres, featuring dance and "Vivaldi Rocks" – it is a diverse programme ranging from established to jazzy. And it is also increasingly female: it turns out that one of the trendsetters for gender equality is China! For the first time, Young Euro Classic welcomes two female conductors from the Far East. The brand-new Guangzhou Youth Orchestra from the southern province of Canton performs with its chief conductor Huan Jing, and the grandiose European Union Youth Orchestra is led by Xian Zhang, one of the few internationally sought-after female maestros in the business.

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“Mr. Red Horn”, the legendary Swedish jazz trombonist Nils Landgren, makes his second appearance at Young Euro Classic. This year, he brings four young female jazz musicians from Sweden and Germany with him. They perform together with the c/o chamber orchestra, founded only last year by former members of the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic, and the programme focuses on works from the 1920s – a time when classical composers first discovered jazz.

And, what a pleasant contrast: the “New Georgian Philharmonic” dedicates itself to truly great men, both of whom turn 80 this year: the outstanding composers Arvo Pärt and Giya Kancheli.

Young Euro Classic – from August 6 to 23 at the Konzerthaus in Berlin: tickets go on sale today (April 16).

You will find the entire programme here: <http://young-euro-classic.de/en/program/>

Tickets for 16/22/25 Euro can be purchased at all the usual ticket sales points, at <http://young-euro-classic.de/en/service/tickets/> or via the phone hotline +49 30-8410 8909. Additional sales points are located at the Konzerthaus Berlin and at Kulturkaufhaus Dussmann.

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