



## HERBSTGOLD – 2023 Festival in Eisenstadt

The age of longing: showtime for first-class performers, exciting discussions, and fascinating discoveries

*From 9th to 24th of September, Julian Rachlin will once again be gathering together the most exceptional musicians and creatives for the seventh edition of the HERBSTGOLD Festival in Eisenstadt. This year, those taking part include the actor George Hamilton, Angelika Kirchschrager, the soprano Lucy Crowe, the violinist Vilde Frang, the pianist Kirill Gerstein, the Isidore String Quartet and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.*

Since 2021, Julian Rachlin has worked passionately in the role of HERBSTGOLD director. Now, once again, the internationally renowned violinist and conductor invites you to enjoy some wonderful music in the golden light of Eisenstadt's autumn in Burgenland, Austria. This year's festival motto is "Longing" – from the almost untranslatable German "Sehnsucht" – and will feature a wide-range of thrilling performances from the 9th to 24th of September.

HERBSTGOLD director Julian Rachlin describes the festival's guiding principle thus: *"Music is the direct manifestation of human longing. So what could be more natural than to immerse yourself in the world of music, a world made of stirring emotions and the very yearning vibrations of the soul? There's something for everyone: all your favorite composers and performers can be enjoyed again this year at HERBSTGOLD, where moving concert experiences inspire our longing for love, fulfillment and peace."* Rachlin hopes the HERBSTGOLD Festival can provide a temporary relief from the crises and catastrophes of our time: *"Particularly in these difficult and uncertain times, we are united by our longing for a better world. We find this in the beauty of timeless musical masterpieces, especially when they are performed by first-class artists and ensembles such as Vilde Frang, Lucy Crowe, John Eliot Gardiner or the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. For me as director of the HERBSTGOLD Festival, it is particularly important that it is more than just a concert visit. It should be an experience filled with inspiration, reflection and personal encounters."*

### Once again, HERBSTGOLD presents outstanding artists

This year will again see celebrated artists taking part in the Eisenstadt festival. The English soprano **Lucy Crowe** will perform arias by Carl Maria von Weber, accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Maxim Emelyanychev, who is considered to be one of the most outstanding Russian conductors of the younger generation. Sir John Eliot Gardiner has unfortunately withdrawn from conducting the HERBSTGOLD Festival for personal reasons that have already been discussed in the media. Director Julian Rachlin understands this decision, and emphasizes that the personal well-being of all festival artists and employees should always take the highest priority. Despite this unfortunate setback, Julian Rachlin is grateful that Maxim Emelyanychev – who will be directing the concert on 16th of September – stepped in at such short notice. (Additional information about Maxim Emelyanychev can be found below). The concert will be broadcast live on medici TV.

**Danny Grissett**, who studied as a jazz pianist under Herbie Hancock, brings a breath of fresh air to popular jazz standards with his all-star jazz quartet, while the sensitive Norwegian violinist **Vilde Frang** presents chamber music highlights. For the first time in Eisenstadt, the legendary Hollywood actor **George Hamilton** will act as reciter. Alongside other artists, Hamilton will also take part in one of the pre-concert panel sessions on the festival theme “Longing”, chaired by the cultural journalist **Heinz Sichrovsky**. In another round of discussions, moderated by **Ursula Magnes** (Head of Music at radio klassik Stephansdom), Julian Rachlin, **Simon Fletcher** (General Manager of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe), and **Stefan Ottrubay** (Chairman of the Esterházy Private Foundation), will discuss the topic “Europe”.

The **Isidore String Quartet** celebrated its Eisenstadt debut in spring this year as part of the “quartetto plus” festival, and will play works by Haydn, Mendelssohn and Brahms at HERBSTGOLD. **Angelika Kirchschrager** enriches the program with a satirical song evening with her piano partner **Julius Drake** and with the Viennese cabaret artist **Alfred Dorfer** as reciter. Also taking part this year is the **Janoska Ensemble** with the **Romani children's choir Čhavorenge**. Julian Rachlin will perform the final concert together with the renowned **Filarmonica della Scala** and the spirited Colombian conductor **Andrés Orozco-Estrada**, with Mozart's G major Violin Concerto and Dvořák's Symphony No. 7 on the program.

The **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** has been at the heart of the festival for several years. It is the resident orchestra at Esterházy Palace and will perform the opening concert of HERBSTGOLD 2023 on the 13th of September. The program includes, among other works, Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. The driving force behind HERBSTGOLD, Julian Rachlin, will appear as a soloist and conductor, and will also join the festival as a chamber musician at a later date. This includes a duet evening on 17th of September with **Kirill Gerstein**, as well as in various string performances.

Where last year's festival featured Mozart's singspiel “Bastien and Bastienne”, this year will see a return to Haydn's operatic repertoire, bringing the early work “Acide” to the stage on September 9th as a prelude to the festival. The piece, which 30-year-old Joseph Haydn described as his “very first opera,” is based on the Greek legend of Acis and Galathea. In it, the lustful and jealous Cyclops Polyphemus kills his rival Acis, who, at the request of the grieving Galathea, is transformed into a river which forever flows into the sea where she – a nymph – lovingly receives him. It was decided, after the great success of “Bastien and Bastienne” last year, to invite the same director-duo **Carolyn Pienkos** and **Cornelius Obonya** to direct again for the festival. Now the two directors, together with conductor **Heinz Ferlesch** and the **Barucco Consort**, take on this new interpretation of Haydn's early work, which will be performed on stage by a young ensemble. The contralto **Cornelia Sonnleithner** will appear in the role of Tetide in “Acide”: *“I am very happy to be able to perform in Acide at the HERBSTGOLD Festival this year. Haydn is still very underestimated as an opera composer and it is great that we have the opportunity to perform this piece at the festival, especially in such a magnificent location as the Haydn Hall at Esterházy Palace.”*

What would HERBSTGOLD be without Esterházy Palace? In 2023, the magnificent baroque building will once again shine as a jewel among the concert venues in the international festival landscape. From the very beginning, Julian Rachlin saw the palace as a special place where world stars meet in an exquisite atmosphere and delight their audience with excellent musical performances. At the same time, HERBSTGOLD is also a festival which offers a very broad spectrum of musical experiences: classical performances from opera to large orchestral concerts to song recitals, chamber music and literary-musical programs, supplemented by unforgettable evenings of jazz and world music, and accompanied by the food festival Pan O'Gusto.

## Esterhazy as a driving force in cultural tourism

Thanks to internationally renowned artists such as John Malkovich, Juan Diego Flórez and Quatuor Ébène, the 2022 festival had more audience members than ever before. Around 6,500 visitors came to enjoy the festival offerings last year. The chairman of the Esterházy Private Foundation, Stefan Ottrubay, sees the HERBSTGOLD Festival as an ongoing success story in Burgenland: *“Among the festivals in Burgenland, HERBSTGOLD enjoys particular popularity with its audience. The 2022 edition was the most successful since the festival's inception. We are sure that, with the internationally recognized musician Julian Rachlin, the 2023 edition can continue this successful course and HERBSTGOLD will contribute to strengthening Burgenland as an important location for art and culture within Austria.”*

**HERBST  
GOLD** FESTIVAL IN  
EISENSTADT **9th to 24th September 2023**  
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### Additional information about Maxim Emelyanychev

Maxim Emelyanychev is considered one of the outstanding Russian conductors of the younger generation. Emelyanychev completed his musical training in his hometown of Nizhny Novgorod and at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. After his conducting debut at the age of 12, he was a regular guest with several renowned Russian orchestras. This was followed by numerous appearances with world-leading orchestras, such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the Belgian National Orchestra among many others. At the start of the 2019/20 Season, he became the Principal Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Several CD recordings round off his artistic work. In April 2019 he received an International Opera Award in the *Newcomer* category. Hailed as one of the most interesting young conductors, he has already made his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra.