



A Festival of Passion and Signals – Musical Messages from Burgenland

From 11 to 25 September 2022, the HERBSTGOLD-Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria, will be inviting guests to top-flight events with world-famous artists in the unique atmosphere of Esterházy Palace – all under the motto of "Passion".



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Passion and a clear stance – one can be barely imagined without the other. It is all the more pleasing that the organisers of this year's HERBSTGOLD-Festival in Eisenstadt were able to enhance their programme at short notice with the addition of an important voice: the Ukrainian **conductor Oksana Lyniv**, a passionate advocate for her country's liberty and the founder of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, will give a very special

evening concert on 18 September with this ensemble, performing Camille Saint Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 and Dvořák's symphony "From the New World" along with the Sinfonietta by her compatriot Zoltan Almashi. **"Music cannot look away. Music should give comfort!"** says Lyniv, who was musical assistant to Kirill Petrenko, the current chief conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, for several years, as well as being the first woman to conduct a premiere at the Bayreuth Festival. "People who go to a concert should come out of the hall in a different state than when they went in. Music is not just entertainment. It is a statement!"

The **festival's artistic director, Julian Rachlin**, would thus seem to have fulfilled his promise regarding this year's HERBSTGOLD-Festival, with its motto of "Passion", in advance: "I can already guarantee you moving, touching and inspiring encounters here in the unique yet intimate ambience of Esterházy Palace." And having the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** as the resident ensemble for the festival also implicitly sends a **culturo-political message of continental solidarity** from Eisenstadt. This multinational orchestra will – after a "Prélude" with **Mozart's opera "Bastien und Bastienne"** (11 September), presented by the newly founded **period performance ensemble Barucco** under the direction of Heinz Ferlesch in the production by the **director team Carolin Pienkos and Cornelius Obonya** – open the festival in symphonic manner. Symphonies by Haydn (Hob. I:49 "La passione") and Beethoven (No. 7), along with Brahms' Violin Concerto, will be on the musicians' stands on 15 September, with Julian Rachlin in the double role as soloist and conductor. Three days later (18 September), Sir András Schiff will take on the same double function with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, performing Joseph Haydn's Piano Concerto No. 11 in D major, Hob. XVIII:11, Béla Bartók's Divertimento for String Orchestra and Haydn's "London Symphony" No. 104 in D major, Hob. I:104. For the symphonic conclusion of the festival (25 September), another top European ensemble will take to the stage in Eisenstadt with Julian

Rachlin: the **Filarmonica della Scala** under Robert Trevino with the Violin Concerto op. 35 by Peter Tchaikovsky as well as Schubert's Symphony No. 2 in B-flat major, D. 125.

There are some more intimate, though certainly no less passionate, hours awaiting festival visitors in Esterházy Palace during **four chamber music concerts with distinguished artists**: the exceptional Peruvian-Austrian tenor Juan Diego Flórez with a lied recital, partly to his own accompaniment (16 September), the exquisite trio of Julian Rachlin (vn) Sarah McElravy (va) and Boris Andrianov (vc) with Bach's great "Goldberg Variations" in the arrangement by Dmitri Sitkovetsky (21 September) and the Leonkoro Quartet, which recently won the international string quartet competitions of Bordeaux and the Wigmore Hall, with Mozart and Schumann (25 September).

One of this festival's special strengths is the way Julian Rachlin and the HERBSTGOLD team always also have an eye on genre diversity and incorporate it in the programmes. In 2022, the French guitarist Biréli Lagrène (& friends) will present "**A Tribute to Django Reinhardt**" together with the Janoska Ensemble (23 September) – extroverted passion is guaranteed. The same goes for the evening concert with **Traditional and Roma music from the Balkans to Burgenland** (23 September), which includes thrilling choreographies from the Gypsy Dance Theatre Totti Ovidiu.

The fact that the festival itself and the metier it represents, despite all due professionalism and excellence, have a sense of humour as well is demonstrated by two cabaret-like programme highlights: the **Loriot evening** "The egg is hard" with Dirk Sterman and Christoph Grisseemann as speakers and Philippine Duchateau on piano (22 September), and a (musical) reading, "The Music Critic", in English with the **Hollywood legend John Malkovich** (24 September). A screening of the film "Der Klavierspieler vom Gare du Nord" by Ludovic Bernard, about a young man of great musical talent who becomes involved in petty crime but works his way up from difficult circumstances, is a novel inclusion in the festival programme that is in tune with its motto (20 September): "a brilliant and electrifying story about the power of music to unify and the great chance offered by mutual trust" (mm filmpresse).

The conception of the HERBSTGOLD-Festival, founded in 2017, is a true success story – 97% of tickets were sold in each of the two last years. This is encouragement enough for Julian Rachlin and the participating artists to once more fascinate audiences in 2022 with "**passion, enthusiasm and ecstatic zeal**" (the festival director's life philosophy). And all this while sending sociopolitical signals: for European solidarity, a peaceful coexistence that knows no borders and unconditional humanity towards all and everyone. Here, culture, above all, must take **a clear stance and send clear messages – with all the passion** at its disposal.

**HERBST
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