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MARIBOR FESTIVAL 2010

Creative energy and passion

It is enough to take a quick look at the opening programme of the Maribor Festival 2010 to envision its mission. Opening with a solo piece and ending with a big symphony, it conveys a powerful expression of what this festival is all about: people from all over the world joining in sharing their passion for music and **turning aloneness into togetherness!**

By bringing musicians from all over the world to Maribor and its partner cities and offering them best possibilities for their creativity, the festival assures its audiences the rich fruits of their artistic cross-pollination. But there is more! All of the Maribor Festival concerts are actually **created on the spot**, offering a unique possibility to observe the musicians "at work", to peek beyond the usually well shattered backstage-door and become a witness and a part of art-making.

This is a truly rare and a precious feature of the Maribor Festival, which gives it an additional value and meaning. It gives us further confidence to see that more and more music lovers and experts recognize this and take the opportunity to visit the town, which **in 2012 will proudly be the European Capital of Culture.**

Seventeen concerts designed by the festival's Artistic Director **Richard Tognetti**, renowned for his creative yet thoughtful programming, are not encumbered by a strongly stated "file-rouge" but are bound by his passionate commitment to muses. The world acclaimed violinist, conductor and leader and Artistic Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra succeeded in finding creative solutions that with their complexity engage even the most demanding music connoisseurs and yet manage to attract a wide audience by their freshness.

Schubert's Quintet in C-Major, Beethoven's passionate Kreutzer Sonata, his Quintet in E flat Major for Piano and Winds, Op. 16 as well as its "sister masterpiece" Quintet in E flat Major for Piano and Winds, K 452 by Mozart are all very much a part of the chamber music canon. They are juxtaposed by world premieres of Richard Tognetti's pieces, written especially for the festival and by the festival commissioned compositions of Slovenian composers Aldo Kumar and Nenad Firšt. The works by Australian Peter Schulthorpe and Lithuanian Peteris Vasks will be performed in Slovenia for the first time, as it is for the first time for the renowned **Choir of London** to perform in Maribor, presenting a unique programme of rarely heard Jewish sacred music. Vocal music lovers will surely enjoy Mozart's Requiem, as well as two masterpieces by Benjamin Britten. Nocturne and Winter Words will be performed by one of the most promising British tenors, **Nicholas Mulroy**, the later marking **Peter Pears' centenary, as well as Britten's and Pears' first and only concert in Maribor in 1955.**

Besides **Maribor**, the picturesque old town **Ptuj** and a baroque mansion **Dornava** will host the festival. The stunning Ptuj Castle will provide a perfect setting for a concert of Mehter Music,

sacred Ottoman music which for centuries accompanied Turkish armies into battles. As for the wildly romantic and hauntingly nightmarish atmosphere of the Dornava Mansion: is there any other better place for a dance with the Devil? Speaking of settings: imagine a classical music concert on a football pitch? Very easily, if we speak of **The Crowd** programme, which explores the links between two passions: the one for music and the one for – football! A combination, which at first may seem unusual, proves to be more than justified as both evoke extreme emotions – something both football fans and musicians are familiar with. By conjoining music with the sublime images by the photographer **Jon Frank**, it promises a unique and most interesting concert experience – one of the festival's highlights for sure!

Musicians from the **Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra** and the **Australian Chamber Orchestra**, as well as members of the **Slovene Philharmonics**, **RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra** and the **Symphony Orchestra of the Slovene National Theatre Maribor** will form this year's Festival Orchestra. Among the soloists we have to mention the acclaimed Russian pianist **Boris Berezovsky**, who returns to the festival for the third time, as well as the cellists **Jan Erik Gustafsson** and **Timo Veikko-Valve**, violinist **Satu Vänskä**, violist **Christopher Moore** and the first Slovenian appearance by the renowned British violinist **Anthony Marwood**. We are happy to announce the accordion virtuoso **Richard Galliano** with his acclaimed new programme devoted entirely to music of J. S. Bach.

These are but a few programme highlights of this year's festival, bursting with creative energy and sheer passion for music. Join us and feel it yourself! Welcome to Maribor!

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