

**33<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL IZMIR FESTIVAL STARTS ON 25<sup>th</sup> MAY**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival, organized by the Izmir Foundation for Culture, Arts and Education (IKSEV), will take place from 25<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival is held through support from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Izmir's Metropolitan Municipality and the Izmir Development Agency, under the main sponsorship of the Eczacıbaşı Group, and in collaboration with the Portuguese Embassy, the Italian Consulate in Izmir and the Izmir Goethe Institute. There will be performances at AASSM, DEU Sabancı Culture Palace, the Library of Celsus, Ephesus Odeon, Elhamra Stage and Kemeraltı Kızlarağası Inn.

**GÜLSİN ONAY PLAYS CHOPIN**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Izmir International Festival opens with a recital given by Gülsin Onay on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at AASSM. Onay was honoured by the Polish Republic with a State Merit award for "Best Chopin Interpreter". Expressing her feelings about Chopin, Onay has used the following words, "Chopin... he is my natural soulmate. A composer who gives a voice to my heart that embraces the piano without my hands. The creator of the works that I would take along with me if I was stranded on a deserted island... He has the power to let my fingers sing, even on the worst piano, with the things that he unintentionally makes me feel, with his melodies which make me feel happy or make me cry. With his music reflecting immortal emotions to the universe which will survive for centuries. My engagement with Chopin was officially recognized on the day when I was awarded a State Merit by the Polish Government. Every time when I play his works, I feel very grateful for being a pianist". Gülsin Onay will present a special selection of works for her recital "An Evening of Chopin with Gülsin Onay".

**BIG BAND OF THE FUTURE**

The Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw (JOC), one of the most impressive Big Bands of the Netherlands, is described by many as "the Big Band of the Future". Established in 1996 as a New Concert Big Band, the JOC has achieved a top position among the world's most popular jazz orchestras since then. JOC will perform works from their latest album, Crossroads, at a concert to be held at DEU

Sabancı Culture Palace on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 under the direction of their conductor Rob Horsting.

### **REBEL GIRL OF PASSION: CARMEN**

On Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 21.00, the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival is going to offer a rather different experience for dance and opera lovers. Carmen will be presented in the style of Flamenco this time, based on one of Opera's most popular works of literature adapted by Bizet from the story by French writer Mérimée. The De Sangre Y Raza Flamenco Company, one of today's best Flamenco companies, will present their version of Carmen, the rebel girl of passionate love, featuring Juan Manuel Prieto's choreography.

### **PORTUGAL'S VOICE: ANA LAINS**

Ana Lains believes that Fado is the best way to express her feelings and share them with the audience. She will present her latest album "Portucalis" at the concert on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at AASSM. Ana Lains takes part in the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival through the support of the Portuguese Embassy. She expresses her thoughts on Portucalis with the following words: "The mission of this album is to pass the following message: this record is dedicated to all those who like people, who love to be people of their country and who understand that life is a mission. It is dedicated to all who understand that this mission is part of the place where we are born."

### **SOPRANO /BAS ALLATURCA "NEW INTERPRETATIONS"**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival will host its audience at the Kızlarağası Inn, one of the most beautiful historical places of Izmir, on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. "Bas Allaturca" was established by Nihat Demirkol together with Bass Alparslan Mater in 2017, and "Soprano Allaturca" together with Soprano Oya Ergün followed these in 2018. They join forces as "Soprano/Bas Allaturca" for the first time and exclusively for the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival. Soprano/Bas Allaturca will enliven the beautiful June night with their "New Interpretations".

### **PHILHARMONIE LUXEMBOURG AND YUJA WANG**

On Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 at AASSM, music lovers will have the chance to listen to Yuja Wang, one of the most noted pianists of our time, performing with the renowned Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. The Orchestra, under its permanent conductor Gustava Gimeno, will present the immortal works of Tchaikovsky, Gershwin, Shostakovich and Stravinsky.

## **LA DIVA TURCA ON THE FESTIVAL SCREEN**

The Izmir premiere of the film, “La Diva Turca - Leyla Gencer”, will be screened on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 21.00 at the Elhamra Stage. Leyla Gencer was a Turkish soprano, whose name is written in gold in the history of Turkish opera, Produced by Istanbul’s Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV), the film was made by Zeynep Oral and is directed and edited by Selçuk Metin. Both Zeynep Oral and Selçuk Metin are going to attend the premiere.

## **CLASSIC, ROMANTIC AND CONTEMPORARY**

The Boulanger Trio will perform at Ephesus Odeon on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 21:00. This trio has won all the prizes that a chamber ensemble can win and they hold an important place among today's chamber groups, performing in the world's most prestigious concert halls and as much sought-after guests at festivals. They also honour their commitment to contemporary music at the centre of their repertoire, in addition to works from the classical and romantic period. The Boulanger Trio will perform the works of Clara Schumann, Paul Juon and Robert Schumann for the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival. Their performance is made possible here through the support of the Izmir Goethe Institute.

## **ITALIAN BREEZE AT CELSUS**

The Library of Celsus, one of the most popular venues for the International Izmir Festival, will be refreshed with an Italian Breeze on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Soprano Mariasole Mainini, one of today's most talented young stars, Nile Senatore, a brilliant bel canto tenor and pianist Giorgio D’ Alonzo, will present an outstanding repertoire from the Italian Opera tradition. This recital for the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival has been made possible due to the support of the Italian Consulate in Izmir.

## **COMPOSERS WHO ARE FROM IZMIR AND HAVE LIVED IN IZMIR**

Ege University’s State Conservatory of Turkish Music & Classical Turkish Music Choir promises an unforgettable night of music under the direction of its conductor Halil İbrahim Yüksel. The concert will be held at AASSM on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 21.00, and includes a selection from the works of composers who were either born in Izmir or who spent most of their lives in Izmir.

## **CLOSING PERFORMANCE FROM SHANGHAI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND FAZIL SAY**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival opened with Turkey’s own Gülsin Onay, and it seems appropriate that it comes to a close with a concert given by genius Turkish pianist Fazıl Say along with the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra on

Monday evening, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 21,00 at ASSM. The Orchestra enjoys constantly increasing popularity in the classical music world, and is riding high under the direction of their conductor Liang Zhang. They are to perform works by Beethoven and Dvorak.

### **FESTIVAL POSTER CREATED BY ESRA YEŞİM YAVUZ**

The poster for the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival was created by Esra Yeşim Yavuz, a final-year student at the Graphic Design Department of Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. The artist, who was born in 1990, has received awards in major competitions while still studying. Yavuz has also worked in various social responsibility projects, with one of her works exhibited at the 17<sup>th</sup> Jazz Poster Contest organized by the Izmir Foundation for Culture, Arts and Education in 2019, while another has been selected as the Poster for the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival.

### **FESTIVAL TICKETS ARE AT BILETIX**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> International Izmir Festival tickets are on sale from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, at Biletix.

With Compliments

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