



CHAMBER CONCERTS OF THE 67TH LJUBLJANA FESTIVAL

The Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra is preparing a concert with the acclaimed mandolinist **Avi Avital**. Winner of the prestigious Aviv Competition in 2007, Israeli musician Avi Avital is the first mandolinist in the history of the competition to be so honoured. A passionate and charismatic musician, his performances have electrified audiences around the world. He is also the first mandolin soloist to be nominated for a classical Grammy.

(29. 7. at 8.00pm, National Gallery)

The **Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt** was founded in Tbilisi (Georgia) in 1964. Its move to Ingolstadt (Germany) in early 1990 opened a new chapter in its story. Despite the move to a different cultural and geographical environment, it maintains its Eastern European identity, at the same time acting as an important cultural ambassador for the city of Ingolstadt. For its Ljubljana concert the orchestra will be conducted by the Armenian conductor **Ruben Gazarian**, who since 2015 has also been its artistic director. The soloists will be **Fabrizio Meloni** (clarinet), **Vicente Campos** (trumpet) and **Giuseppe Albanese** (piano).

(30. 7. at 8.00pm, National Gallery)

The concert evening *Death and the Maiden* places the spotlight on the vocal-instrumental works of two Romantic composers who are among the most notable composers of lieder: Hugo Wolf and Franz Schubert. *Songs for female voice and strings* and *Death and the Maiden for soprano and strings* have been arranged by the artistic director of the **Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra**, Klemen Hvala. The fourteen-member ensemble was founded in 1993 with support from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia. The soloist is the soprano **Nika Gorič**, who has completed a master's degree and a doctorate at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

(31. 7. at 8.00pm, National Gallery)

The **Cameristi della Scala** (La Scala Chamber Orchestra) with soloists **Massimo Mercelli** and **Massimo Quarta** offer a programme of works by Tartini. Since its foundation in 1982, the orchestra has appeared in many of the most prestigious concert halls and collaborates frequently with top instrumental and vocal soloists. The Cameristi della Scala will actually perform twice at this year's Ljubljana Festival, first in Ljubljana and then, a day later, in Piran. Both concerts are part of the European cross-border project "tARTini", which brings together institutions in Piran, Ljubljana, Trieste and Padua with the aim of stimulating cultural tourism and promoting cultural heritage.

(1. 8. at 8.00pm, National Gallery)

When he was six years old, **Matthias Höfs** declared the trumpet “his instrument, because it shines so nicely”. He received his musical education from Professor Peter Kallensee at the Hamburg University of Music and Theatre, and from Professor Konradin Groth at the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. When just 18 years of age, he was engaged as solo trumpeter at the Philharmonic State Orchestra in Hamburg, where he enjoyed the fascinating world of opera for 16 years. At the same time, Höfs became a member of the German Brass ensemble, with whom he continues to achieve worldwide success. Since their first joint concert in 1985, he has written tailored arrangements for himself and his colleagues which span more than one genre and continue to inspire the world of brass. In October 2016 German Brass was awarded with the ECHO-Klassik – one of the most important awards for national and international musicians. He will perform works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with Sarah Christian on violin, Jano Lisboa on viola, Samuel Lutzker on cello and Paul Rivinius on piano.

(5. 8. at 8.00 pm, National Gallery)

Innovative guitar virtuoso and educator **Mak Grgić** is a rising star of the international music scene. After training in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Vienna and, finally, Los Angeles, where he studied with Scott Tennant, he was invited to join the Artist Diploma programme at USC Thornton School of Music in Los Angeles – the first guitarist in the university’s history to be admitted to this elite programme. At his Ljubljana concert with the **Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra**, he will perform Rodrigo’s famous *Concierto de Aranjuez*, one of the most popular guitar concertos of the twentieth century.

(6. 8., National Gallery)

Pianist **Vadym Kholodenko** will give two separate concerts. Born in Kiev in 1986, Vadym Kholodenko performed his first concerts in the United States, China, Hungary and Croatia at the age of thirteen. **On 7 August he will give a solo concert of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Godowsky in the Knights’ Hall.** The next day, **8 August, he will be joined at the National Gallery** by the violinist **Alena Baeva**, with whom he has been working for over a decade. Born to a musical family in Kazakhstan, Baeva began playing the violin in early childhood before continuing her training at Moscow’s famous Conservatory. In 2003 she went to study in Paris at the personal invitation of the legendary cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich. At this concert, she and Vadym Kholodenko will perform works by Schubert, Schumann and Richard Strauss.

(7. 8. at 8.00 pm, Knight’s Hall, Križanke; 8. 8. at 8.00 pm, National Gallery)

The international Baroque ensemble **Il terzo suono** consisting of four established musicians was founded in 2005. The ensemble performs regularly at major European festivals, raising the profile of Slovenia’s musical and cultural scene. The ensemble’s Ljubljana concert will feature the works of three great Baroque composers – Antonio Vivaldi, Giuseppe Tartini and Georg Philipp Telemann – performed on authentic baroque instruments.

(9. 8. at 8.00 pm, Devil’s Courtyard)

Bernardo Brizani and **Miha Haas** will perform works by Boccherini, Beethoven, Schumann, Schubert and Paganini in the intimate atmosphere of the Knights’ Hall. Cellist Brizani was born in Ljubljana in 1993 and began playing the cello at the age of five, soon showing signs of the remarkable talent that enabled him to enrol at the Ljubljana Academy of Music to study cello as soon he finished primary school. Parallel with his

studies in Ljubljana, he trained at the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole near Florence (Italy) with the celebrated cellist Natalia Gutman, and in 2016 completed his master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold (Germany). Joining him on the piano is Miha Haas, who began his musical training at the Ljubljana Conservatory before continuing at the Ljubljana Academy of music with the renowned pianist Dubravka Tomšič Srebotnjak and completing a master's degree at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels with Aleksandar Madžar.

(12. 8. at 8.00 pm, Knights' Hall, Križanke)

The **Kodály Quartet** has been active for more than five decades and is one of the world's leading chamber ensembles. The quartet's story began in 1966, when it was founded by four students from Budapest's Franz Liszt Music Academy. Six years later it was renamed in honour of the famous Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály. Over the last decade, the quartet's members have performed in practically every country in Europe, the United States, Central and South America, Australia, the Far East and New Zealand. Violinists Attila Falvay and Ferenc Bangó, violist János Fejérvári and cellist György Éder will offer the Ljubljana audience a selection of works by composers of the middle and late Romantic period.

(13. 8. at 8.00 pm, National Gallery)

The great flautist Jean-Pierre Rampal once said of **Claudi Arimany** that he is "one of those virtuosi who put technique, sonority and the colours of phrasing at the service of musicality and sensitivity, something not within the grasp of many." Arimany, regarded as one of the finest flautists active today, was born in Granollers, Catalonia. He will appear in the National Gallery with the **Ensemble Goffriller**, consisting of teachers from the Istituto Musicale Vincenzo Bellini in Catania, Sicily. The Ensemble was born out of a fertile interchange of artistic experiences among musicians of recognised merit, trained at Italy's most prestigious music academies and active in leading orchestras and chamber ensembles.

(14. 8. at 8.00 pm, National Gallery)

Thank you for taking the time to discover the Ljubljana Festival programme.

More information and tickets at ljubljanafestival.si.

Information / Public relations

Živa Steiner

Tel.: +386 (0)1 241 60 18

Ziva.Steiner@ljubljanafestival.si

Sanja Kejžar Kladnik

Tel.: +386 (0)1 241 60 16

Sanja.Kejzar@ljubljanafestival.si

ljubljanafestival.si

www.facebook.com/ljubljanafestival

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