**Announcement of concerts of the 20th International Conservatory Week Festival**

**From 24 October to 2 November 2020, the St. Petersburg N. A. Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory will become home to the 20th anniversary International Conservatory Week Festival. The concerts will be performed both live and online.**

24 October, Saturday, 19:00

The traditional large-scale opening concert will be held in the Grand Hall of the St. Petersburg Philharmonia. The concert programme will be preceded by a solemn ceremony of awarding the diploma and mantle of an Honorary Professor of the St. Petersburg Conservatory to Maestro Maxim Vengerov. The world-famous violinist will perform *the Chaconne* from Bach's *Partita for Violin Solo No. 2 in D Minor.*

Then, the audience will hear the world premiere of Alexander Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio of Four.* This piece features an unusual combination of instruments, which include a violin, two cellos and a piano, and was created specially for the Festival. It will be performed by renowned musicians who have headed the Conservatory during the past 20 years: Mikhail Gantvarg, a People's Artist of Russia, *violin*; Sergei Roldugin, a People's Artist of Russia, *cello*; Alexei Vasiliev, an Honoured Artist of Russia, *cello*; and Alexander Tchaikovsky, a People's Artist of Russia, *piano.*

The second part of the programme will feature a versatile collection of works by both classic and contemporary composers performed by three choirs, such as the St. Petersburg Conservatory Choir (Artistic Director and Conductor — Professor Sergei Ekimov), the Moscow Conservatory Chamber Choir (Artistic Director and Conductor — Professor Alexander Solovyev), and the Novosibirsk Conservatory Academic Student Choir (Artistic Director and Conductor — Professor Elena Rudzey).

25 October, Sunday, 19:00

The choral polyphony will fill St. Isaac's Cathedral. The audience will hear two rarely performed spiritual compositions of Russian and world composers.

The Moscow Conservatory Chamber Choir will present choral opuses by Russian, Norwegian and American authors of the 20th-21st centuries. *Glory to Art!*, a fragment from Scriabin's *Symphony No.1*, will become the symbolic anthem of the concert.

For the first time, the Northern Capital will hear the Novosibirsk Conservatory Academic Student Choir presenting works by Siberian composers, associated with the foundation and development of the Novosibirsk Conservatory.

The St. Petersburg Conservatory Choir will perform contemporary spiritual music. The concluding part of the concert will be a world premiere *Do Not Hasten, Lord, My Death Hour*, a fragment from *the* *Concerto for choir* to the lyrics by Grigor Narekatsi, performed by the joint choir of three conservatories under the baton of Sergei Ekimov.

26 October, Monday, 19:00

The traditional Orchestra Academies that takes place in the Jaani Kirik Concert Hall will include a most interesting concert, as part of which the St. Petersburg Conservatory Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Rector Alexei Vasiliev will perform a unique programme *Beethoven–2020* *REMIX.*

*Symphony No. 3 Heroic*, revealing the immense power of Beethoven's creative genius, has attracted the attention of contemporary composers from St. Petersburg. Alexander Radvilovich, Svetlana Nesterova, Evgeny Petrov, Nikolai Mazhara and Anton Tanonov have created remixes for one of the most frequently performed masterpieces of the Viennese classic. The concert programme will present five world premieres: the first part will feature creative perspectives on *Symphony No. 3*, and the second one, the original version of the masterpiece.

27 October, Tuesday, 19:00

The Small Hall of the St. Petersburg Philharmonia will host the performance of the works by the composers whose anniversaries of birth are observed this year: Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Mahler, Tchaikovsky, and Glazunov. Teachers, graduates and students of the St. Petersburg Conservatory are going to pay their musical tribute. The concert will comprise both vocal and instrumental compositions of truly diverse genres. The highlight of the programme will be the performances of Igor Karzov, a famous French horn player from St. Petersburg and an Honoured Artist of Russia, and Maria Lyudko, a People's Artist of Russia and a popular singer.

28 October, Wednesday, 19:00

The Catherine's Assembly Concert Hall, a new musical venue on the map of the Northern Capital, will open its doors for you. For the first time, the International Conservatory Week Festival will feature performance by musicians from the Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov State Music and Pedagogical Institute (Moscow). The audience will see the St. Petersburg premiere of the chamber opera *Poor People* by Moscow composer Gleb Sedelnikov, based on the novel of the same name by Dostoevsky. Just before the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Russian literature classic, the music lovers will have an opportunity to see the musical version of Dostoevsky's first published novel — his first step into the world of literature. Participants and guests of the International Conservatory Week Festival will be able to immerse themselves into the history of relationship between the main characters of the novel and feel special St. Petersburg atmosphere, which is an integral part of any work by Dostoevsky.

29 October, Thursday, 19:00

Performance by distinguished cellist from Moscow Boris Andrianov and well-known pianist from St. Petersburg Peter Laul will become the highlight of the evening of chamber music in the Small Hall of the Philharmonia. They will present works by Romantic composers: *3 Fantasy Pieces for Cello and Piano* by Schumann and famous *Sonata for Violin and Piano* by Cesar Frank arranged for cello and piano.

30 October, Friday, 19:00

The Hermitage Theatre will host the original concert programme *ETHNO – CLASSIC –XXI.* In a new mixed format, Russian musicians will perform live, while artists from other countries will present their programmes via video recordings made specially for the Festival.

Maria Pomianowska's Ensemble from the Academy of Music in Kraków will play ethnic songs and tunes from different regions of Poland and compositions by Frederic Chopin and Stanisław Moniuszko using old folk musical instruments.

The musicians from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music (Budapest) will introduce the audience to the unique contemporary musical culture of Hungary. The New Franz Liszt Chamber Choir with László Norbert Nemes as their Artistic Director and Conductor will perform choir transcriptions by 20th-century Hungary composer Béla Bartók, while young and talented pianist Gergely Kovács will play Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances*.

Well-known St. Petersburg pianist Oleg Weinstein will present pieces by Chopin and Liszt.

31 October, Saturday, 20:00

The Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall will hold a major concert as part of the Orchestra Academies series and the culmination event of the Festival. Before the audiences hear the sounds of music, they will see the diploma and mantle of Honorary Professor of the St. Petersburg Conservatory granted to Olga Borodina, a People's Artist of Russia and a soloist of the Mariinsky Theatre. The distinguished singer will perform the song *I Am Lost to the World* by Gustav Mahler to lyrics by Friedrich Rückert accompanied by the St. Petersburg State Conservatory Symphony Student Orchestra (Conductor – Alexei Vasiliev, Rector of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, an Honoured Artist of Russia).

The concert will also feature Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4 in B flat Major*, which marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of the genius. *Symphony No. 5 in E Minor* by Tchaikovsky will bring the Festival to a close and be the final one in a series of dedications to the anniversary of the birth of the composer and the first graduate of alma mater.

1 November, Sunday

Jazz music concerts have become a tradition of the Festival.

The *JAZZ - CLASSIC – XXI* programme in digital format will feature eminent legends of contemporary jazz: Leszek Możdżer, a Polish pianist, who has received a myriad of prestigious awards, and Adam Ben Ezra, a magnificent double bass player from Israel. The concert will include masterful improvisation on well-known themes and classic jazz standards with national colour. Performances of foreign musicians representing the higher music schools of Finland, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Hungary will take place in digital format.