

19th INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATORY WEEK FESTIVAL

19 October (Saturday) 7 p.m.

The D. D. Shostakovich St. Petersburg Academic Philharmonic. Grand Hall

The Opening Concert

Three orchestras and two choral groups will participate in this concert, representing five music schools: the St. Petersburg and Moscow Conservatories, the Academies of Music from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and one of the festival's guests, Shadwell Opera from the UK.

In just one evening, visitors will become acquainted with the musical cultures of the UK, the Baltic countries and Russia. A work by Edward Elgar, a composer with a Romantic sensibility and one of the masters of British music at the turn of the 20th century, will open the concert. The Introduction and Allegro for String Quartet and Orchestra will be performed by the composer's compatriots, the Shadwell Opera Orchestra (London, UK) under the baton of Finnegan Downie Dear (UK).

The Accademia Baltica Orchestra, a group of young musicians from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, will present works by two Baltic composers whose compositions have been successfully performed both at home and in Europe. Pēteris Plakidis, a representative of the Latvian composition school of the 20th century, was the author of symphonic and vocal pieces, and also music for theatre and films. The performance of his Concerto for Two Oboes and string orchestra will be a festival premiere and a present for those who are open to new trends in music. Robertas Beinaris, oboe (Lithuania), and Egils Upatnieks, oboe (Latvia), will be the soloists.

The contemporary Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür, a winner of many national awards and a UNESCO prize, works with a wide variety of musical genres. The final part of Tüür's *Action - Passion - Illusion* for string orchestra will be performed for the first time at the festival and will bring a close to the section of music from the Baltic countries. The conductor will be Guntis Kuzma (Latvia). **This programme is supported by the British Embassy in Russia, the British Council, and the Consulates General of the Republic of Latvia, of the Republic of Lithuania and Estonia in St. Petersburg.**

The second part of the concert can rightly be called a musical tribute to the famous Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, a distinguished professor at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, the 175th anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated in Russia's Northern Capital throughout this year. The heritage of the composer, who was always striving for beauty and harmony in his music, still sparks genuine interest among both music professionals and music lovers. The opening concert of the International Conservatory Week will present a scene from the rarely performed opera *Mlada* and a one of the composer's masterpieces of symphonic music, *Capriccio Espagnol*. The Chamber Choir of the Moscow Conservatory (Artistic Director – Professor Alexander Solovyev), the Choir of the St. Petersburg Conservatory (Artistic Director – Professor Valery Uspensky, a People's Artist of Russia) and the St. Petersburg Conservatory Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Professor Vladimir Altschuler, an Honoured Artist of Russia, will be participating in the concert programme.

This impressive opening concert will begin the Orchestra Academies Concert Marathon, which will bring together five orchestras: the St. Petersburg Conservatory Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, the Accademia Baltica Orchestra, the Shadwell Opera Orchestra and the Admiralty Navy Band of the Leningrad Naval Base.

20 October (Sunday) 2 p.m.

The Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall

The Russian Premiere. Celebrating the Year of Theatre in Russia

The opera *Where The Wild Things Are*, based on Maurice Sendak's bestseller of the same name, speaks mostly to the children's audience. Nevertheless, the stage version by the contemporary British composer Oliver Knussen will be of interest to all fantasy lovers.

The next part of the programme will feature the *Mother Goose Suite*, Five Children's Pieces for symphony orchestra by Maurice Ravel. The musical stories were inspired by French fairy tales and were born out of the composer's desire to "recreate the poetry of childhood." The suite will be performed by soloists and the Symphony Orchestra of Shadwell Opera (London, UK) and conducted by Finnegan Downie Dear (UK). The performance is part of the UK-Russia Year of Music 2019 and is supported by the British Embassy in Moscow and the British Council.

20 October (Sunday) 7 p.m.

Roman Catholic Church of the Lourdes God's Mother

Organ Academies

During the concert, Carl Adam Landström, a talented young professor from the Malmö Academy of Music, will present compositions by Johann Sebastian Bach, which are classics of the organ repertoire, works by Swedish composers of the 19th-21st centuries (Bengt Tommy Andersson, Otto Olsson and Oskar Lindberg), and improvisations on given themes. **The concert enjoys the support of the Consulate General of Sweden in St. Petersburg.**

20 October (Sunday) 7 p.m.

St. Isaac's Cathedral

Choir Academies

The vaults of St. Isaac's Cathedral, which for the first time ever has become a festival venue, will resound with choral song. The extensive programme, a sort of anthology of choir music, combines sacred and secular works by Russian composers of four centuries. Not only is the concert intended to introduce the audience to some rarities of choral art and to acquaint them with newly written works but also to bring to mind supreme human values. **Two choral groups will participate in the concert.** The **Chamber Choir of the Moscow Conservatory** will perform works by Stepan Degtyarev, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Alfred Schnittke, Rodion Shchedrin and Sergei Ekimov, to name but a few. **The Artistic Director is Alexander Solovyev, and he will also be the conductor. The Concert Choir of the St. Petersburg State University of Culture** will continue the concert with works by Georgy Sviridov, Yuri Falik, Nun Julianna (Denisova) and other composers. **The Artistic Director is Sergei Ekimov, who will also be the conductor. The programme will also include a solo cello performance by Professor Alexei Vasilyev, Rector of the St. Petersburg Conservatory and an Honoured Artist of Russia.**

20 October (Sunday) 7 p.m.

The Jaani Kirik Concert Hall

Orchestra Academies

As part of the Orchestra Academies Concert Marathon, the Accademia Baltica Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Guntis Kuzma (Latvia) will appear on the stage of the Yaani Kirik Concert Hall. **During the concert, the audience will hear Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, one of the composer's most serene works, and music by three composers from the Baltic countries:** Pēteris Plakidis from Latvia, Erkki-Sven Tüür from Estonia and Justė Janulytė, from Lithuania, whose names will adorn the festival programme. Not only will the concert introduce the audience to the contemporary musical culture of the Baltic states, but it will also provide an opportunity to make comparisons with and find similarities to classic examples of symphonic music.

21 October (Monday) 7 p.m.

The Sheremetev Palace - Museum of Music. White Hall

Chamber Series

The Chamber Series, which has become a tradition at the festival, will be held in the White Hall of the Sheremetev Palace and present an exquisite programme, followed by jazz compositions. In the first part of the programme, professors from the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna will perform works by Austrian and German composers that have become the “gold reserve” of the vocal and instrumental repertory. They include Franz Schubert's *The Shepherd on the Rock* for soprano, clarinet and piano, Robert Schumann's *Three Fantasy Pieces* for clarinet and piano, fragments from Alban Berg's *The Seven Early Songs* vocal cycle, and Franz Liszt's *Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata*. The programme is intended for music professionals and music lovers who are eager to become acquainted with the performing traditions of Austro-German music.

In the second part of the programme, aimed at devotees of modern jazz, the Jam Music Lab Jazz Ensemble from the JAM MUSIC LAB Private University for Jazz and Popular Music in Vienna will perform at the Conservatory forum for the first time ever. Three musicians from Austria and the United States, masters at playing the piano, saxophone and upright bass, respectively, will treat the audience to famous jazz compositions and brilliant improvisations.

21 October (Monday) 7 p.m.

The Anichkov Palace. White-Column Hall

Orchestra Academies

For the first time, the oldest building on Nevsky Prospect that has survived to this day will open its doors and invites participants and guests of the festival to set off on a breathtaking music journey. For the entire evening, the stage will belong to wind instruments, whose repertoire spans all genres, styles, and eras. Fragments of concertos for saxophone and wind orchestra, masterpieces of classical music, films soundtracks will be performed by the St. Petersburg Saxophone Orchestra and the Admiralty Navy Band of the Leningrad Naval Base under one of the leading saxophonists of our time Alain Crepin (Belgium). Soloists are the winners of international competitions Ekaterina Kulagina, Igor Kuznetsov and Alexei Sokolov (Russia).

22 October (Tuesday) 7 p.m.

The D. D. Shostakovich St. Petersburg Academic Philharmonic. Small Hall

Chamber Series

In the first part of the programme the Kazakhstan Woodwind Quintet, which has toured successfully all around the world, will give a performance. The artistic director of the ensemble is Zhanat Yermanov, an Honoured Artist of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Quintet will play captivating arrangements of works by Claude Debussy, Jacques Ibert, Alexander von Zemlinsky and contemporary Kazakh composers.

Vadim Gluzman, violin (USA) and Evgeny Sinaisky, piano (Austria), a harmonic musical duo, are already known to festival audiences. This time, these outstanding musicians will perform a rare version of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Chaconne*, a solo piece transcribed for violin and piano by Robert Schumann. Sonata No. 7 for violin and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven – a jewel in the art of chamber music will be the closing piece in this concert, which is expected to be vibrant and diverse.

23 October (Wednesday) 7 p.m.

The State Hermitage. The Hermitage Theatre

The Russian Premiere. Celebrating the Year of Theatre in Russia

One of the oldest concert venues in St. Petersburg will host one of the concert highlights of the festival, dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Stanislaw Moniuszko, an icon of Polish music, who visited the Northern Capital several times and performed his own music here. International Conservatory Week will present the cantata *The Ghosts*, which its composer referred to as "lyrical scenes". This will be another Russian premiere marking the Year of Theatre in Russia. The creator of the Polish national opera Stanislaw Moniuszko turned to the poetic drama *Dziady* by his compatriot Adam Mickiewicz and composed a piece of music which is a uniquely balanced combination of poetry and musical text, an intriguing intertwining of mysticism and reality in its storyline, a subtle fusion of Polish folklore and traces of romanticism. This production, with elements of the theatrical, will feature soloists from the National Opera of Warsaw (Poland): Bogumiła Dziel-Wawrowska, soprano, Zbigniew Dębko, baritone, Czesław Gałka, bass-baritone, Robert Dymowski, bass-baritone, along with the Chamber Orchestra and the Choir of the St. Petersburg Conservatory. **Professor Alexei Vasiliev, Rector of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, an Honoured Artist of Russia, will be at the conductor's podium. The concert is supported by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Institute in St. Petersburg.**

24 October (Thursday) 7 p.m.

The D. D. Shostakovich St. Petersburg Academic Philharmonic. Small Hall

Chamber Series

Lajos Rosmán and Balázs Székely, Professors of Franz Liszt Academy of Music (Budapest, Hungary), will perform the *Clarinet Sonata* by Francis Poulenc, *The Rhapsodie* by Claude Debussy, and a music piece by László Sáy, a contemporary Hungarian composer.

Alain Crepin, the world-famous Professor from the Royal Conservatory of Brussels (Belgium), will present a wide palette in the repertoire for the saxophone created by composers of the past and present. **The program is supported by Consulates General of Hungary and Belgium in St. Petersburg.**

In the second part of the concert, the Margulis Family Trio will play the *Piano Trio No. 1* by Ludwig van Beethoven and the *Piano Trio No. 4 Dumky* by Antonín Dvořák. The trio members are

Jura Margulis, piano (Austria), Alissa Margulis, violin (Germany) and Natalia Margulis, cello (Spain). The well-known Margulis family is closely associated with St. Petersburg, as Vitaly Margulis, the father of Jura, Alissa and Natalia, was a Professor in the Leningrad (St. Petersburg) Conservatory and taught an entire generation of gifted pianists.

Not only will the concert programme demonstrate different aspects of the instrumental repertoire and chamber music, but it will also draw attention of the discerning listeners to the features and nuances of the performance in the ensemble, where each musician is both a soloist and a responsive stage partner.

25 October (Friday) 7 p.m.

The St. Petersburg Conservatory. Concert Hall

Chamber Series

The Closing Concert of the Educational Seminar for Woodwind Instrument Players

Lecturers Alain Crepin, saxophone, and Lajos Rosmán, clarinet, as well as students of the Conservatory who attended the classes of these prominent professors, will perform well-known solo and ensemble works for woodwind instruments.

26 October (Saturday) 2 p.m.

The Mariinsky Theatre II. The Prokofiev Hall.

Chamber Series

A concert of instrumental and vocal music *Rimsky-Korsakov – XXI* is intended to be young musicians' tribute to the 175th anniversary of the birth of the St. Petersburg Conservatory patron. The programme includes rarely performed vocal and instrumental works of the composer and unusual transcriptions and jazz arrangements of his well-known pieces of music. The concert organizers' intention was to find a new way of interpreting the musical heritage of Rimsky-Korsakov and avoid clichés and stereotypes while choosing repertoire. Thanks to talented musicians – students, postgraduate students, graduates and lecturers of the Conservatory, – many of Rimsky-Korsakov's works will come out of oblivion and for the first time in many years will be performed on stage again.

26 October (Saturday) 7 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church

Organ Academies

Jens E. Christensen, a professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, will present the programme *Musical Journey Through Europe*, which includes works by composers from Germany, Denmark, Portugal, and Russia of 18th-20th centuries. **The concert is supported by the Danish Cultural Institute in St. Petersburg.**

26 October (Saturday) 7 p.m.

The Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall

Orchestra Academies

This large-scale concert will officially close the Concert Section of the festival.

The St. Petersburg Conservatory Symphony Orchestra under Yuri Simonov, a People's Artist of the USSR, will present works by musicians who represent St. Petersburg school of composition.

The concert will be preceded by a ceremony where the famous Maestro will be granted a diploma and the mantle of the Honorary Professor of the oldest music institution in Russia.

The evening of music will begin with a Piano Concerto No. 2 by Dmitri Shostakovich, which he composed for his son. This work, according to one of the researchers of the Shostakovich's music, "is shaped by the images of youth, or perhaps adolescence – the transition from childhood to youth." Peter Laul, a prominent St. Petersburg pianist and the laureate of international competitions, will perform as a soloist.

Another highlight of the festival is the world premiere of *Symphonic Chant* by Sergei Slonimsky. For the last five years, the International Conservatory Week Festival has kept a good and honourable tradition to mark many concert programmes with the premieres of music pieces by the leading Saint Petersburg composer.

The final piece on the concert programme will be the symphonic suite *Scheherazade* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, a masterpiece of orchestral music, which will complete a series of events to the composer's anniversary and become a bridge between the opening and closing of the festival Concert Section.

1 November (Friday) 7 p.m.

The St. Petersburg Conservatory. Concert Hall

ETHNO -- XXI

Programmes of ethnic music have always been a trend of the International Conservatory Week Festival and have already gained popularity. The 2019 Festival carries on this tradition and will present the Shoghaken Folk Ensemble (Armenia). The performers play traditional instruments: duduk, ud, kanun, kamancha, shvir, blul, dhol, and drone duduk.

Ancient tunes and instrumental music pieces performed by People's and Honoured artists of Armenia will certainly speak to all those who like the unique musical culture of this country. The programme of the guests of the festival, who represent The Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Armenian composer. **The concert of the Shoghaken Folk Ensemble is supported by the Armenian National Cultural Autonomy of St. Petersburg.**

19th International Conservatory Week Festival: Research Section

21 October. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Chamber Hall (Room 537)

International conference *Music of Stanislaw Moniuszko in Polish and Russian Culture* (celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of the composer)

19 to 22 October 2019, will be held on a special schedule

The Congress of the Regional Branch of the International Union of Young Scholars.

19 October - 2 November. The Ground Floor Lobby.

Exhibition *Golden Pen of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. The Composer's Handwritten Legacy at the St. Petersburg Conservatory.* Materials from the St. Petersburg Conservatory Music Library.

21-25 October. Concert halls and rooms of the Conservatory

International educational seminar for woodwind instrument players:

1. led by Professor Alain Crepin, saxophone (Belgium)
21-25 October, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Concert Hall (Room 342)
2. led by Professor Robertas Beinaris, oboe (Lithuania)
21 October, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Concert Hall (Room 342)
3. led by Professor Lajos Rosmán, clarinet (Hungary)
23 October 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. (Room 413)

OPEN LECTURES

21 October 3 p.m. Room 514

«Extended playing techniques for Strings in contemporary compositions from Austria and Germany».

Professor Julia Purgina (Austria)

24 October. 11 a.m. Room 514

«Compositions for brass instruments by composers from USA»

Professor Eric Ewazen (USA)

24 October 11 a.m. Room 214

«Tempo and its significance in organ music from J. S. Bach to the twentieth century»

Professor Jens Christensen (Denmark)

30 October, 12 p.m. Room 414

PRESENTATION of a Proprietary Approach to Teaching From the Welte-Mignon to Virtual Music Experiences

The Yamaha Disklavier in Piano Pedagogy, Interpretation Analysis and as a Musical Communication Medium

Professor Christoph Sischka (Germany) will introduce music teachers and students in St. Petersburg to his own unique approach to teaching the piano using the Yamaha Disklavier, which has already gained a reputation in many European countries.

31 October 5 p.m. Concert Hall (Room 342)

ART EXCHANGE SESSION

between the musicians from the Shoghaken Folk Ensemble (Armenia), professors and students of the Department of Ethnomusicology and Department of Old Russian Singing Art, with the members the St. Petersburg Conservatory Folk Ensemble and of *Znamenie*, the ensemble of Old Russian Spiritual Music of the St. Petersburg N. A. Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory.

2 November, 5 p.m. The House of Composers. 45, Bolshaya Morskaya Street

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION of

Yuri: In the Footsteps of Yuri Ahronovitch a documentary film by Nevio Casadio (Italy)

This film, by the well-known Italian director Nevio Casadio, is about the tortuous life of Yuri Ahronovitch, a graduate of the Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) Conservatory and a Soviet, and then Israeli, conductor, and has won recognition in Italy and Israel. In 2018, it was met with success at the Moscow International Film Festival and also at Russia Abroad, another international film festival at the Alexander Solzhenitsyn House of Russia Abroad in Moscow.

Nevio Casadio has directed biographical documentaries about Federico Fellini, Michelangelo Antonioni, Tonino Guerra, and many other prominent figures in the art world.

The screening of this film is supported by the Consulate General of the Israel in St. Petersburg.

19-25 October

OPEN MASTERCLASSES

These masterclasses will be led by professors from music schools in Austria, the USA, Sweden and Denmark, and they will be held in the classrooms and auditoriums of the St. Petersburg Conservatory according to a special timetable.