

NOVEMBER

Friday 4 November 2022 19:30

Bartók Béla National Concert Hall, Müpa Budapest

Brahms: A German Requiem

Brahms: Begräbnisgesang (Funeral Hymn), Op. 13

Brahms: A German Requiem, Op. 45

Katalin Szutrély soprano, **Nikolay Borchev** baritone

Purcell Choir

Concerto Budapest

Conductor: **György Vashegyi**

Early, chilly November is the season of remembrance, All Saints' Day is when we go out to cemeteries and cherish the memory of departed loved ones. Requiems are heard in churches and concert halls alike, and Müpa is no different in this respect. For this occasion, Concerto Budapest are joined by Purcell Choir in a performance (under the direction of György Vashegyi) of a Johannes Brahms' masterpiece, *A German Requiem*, preceded by a shorter, earlier choral work that actually pointed the way to the Requiem, the rarely performed *Funeral Song*.

A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms is unlike all other requiems. Firstly, it is more an oratorio since it is not a setting to music of the texts of the mass, while it is not in Latin but German. And although the composer compiled the libretto from the Lutheran German Bible, and the Apocrypha, it was common knowledge that the freethinker Brahms was an atheist. "Such a great man! Such a great soul! And he doesn't believe in anything!" his friend Antonín Dvořák noted in sorrow. However, grief, tragedy often make a believer out of an atheist: the first drafts of *A German Requiem* were sketched out in 1856 at the time of the death of Schumann, then after a long break Brahms returned to his composition on the loss of his mother in 1865; although a slow maturation process, in the end it brought the composer world fame. *Funeral Song* (Begräbnisgesang, 1858) for choir and wind instruments is frequently seen as the forerunner of *A German Requiem*. Musicologists consider the work to be a reminiscence on the death of Schumann just as the *Piano Concerto in D minor*, and the text originating from the songbook of Michael Weiss evokes the image of a funeral.

Concerto Budapest are joined by Purcell Choir with the support of soloists Katalin Szutrély and Nikolay Borchev known mainly from their participation in early music productions, all playing under the baton of György Vashegyi, an artist with great influence on early music performance in Hungary. Thus we are guaranteed a new perspective on this prized work of the Romantic oratorio repertoire.

Price with a 20% discount: 6000, 4720, 3840, 3120, 2480, 1760 HUF

Friday 11 November 2022 19:30

Grand Hall, Liszt Academy

Mozart: Symphony in G minor, K. 183

Chopin: Piano Concerto in F minor, Op. 21

-intermission-

Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Nikolai Lugansky piano

Concerto Budapest

Conductor: **András Keller**

1994 winner of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Competition Nikolai Lugansky has been entrancing Budapest audiences for many years: not only for his virtuosity but equally for his profundity and consistent maximalist drive for tonality. This year, as guest of Concerto Budapest he performs two great Chopin piano concertos. His first concert features the F minor: completed and premiered before the E minor, it was only published later, thus this popular composition is numbered second. Prior to the work by the 19-year-old Chopin, the concert opens with a recital of the 25th symphony by a 17-year-old Mozart, which in order to differentiate it from the 40th in the same key is usually called the 'little G minor symphony'. After the intermission, the stage is set for one of the greatest hits of the 19th century Romantic – and at the same time Slav – grand orchestral repertoire: Dvořák's *Symphony No. 8 in G major* composed between August and November 1889. As a way of lauding this cheerfully lyrical composition evoking the Czech landscapes and at the same time the rhythms of folk songs, it is perhaps sufficient to say that it was not even overshadowed by the *New World Symphony*.

Price with a 20% discount: 6000, 4720, 3840, 3120, 2480, 1760 HUF

Saturday 12 November 2022 19:30

Grand Hall, Liszt Academy

Mozart: Symphony in G minor, K. 183

Chopin: Piano Concerto in E minor, Op. 11

-intermission-

Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

Nikolai Lugansky piano

Concerto Budapest

Conductor: **András Keller**

Nikolai Lugansky is one of the greatest pianists of our time, blessed with extraordinary abilities. He always takes to the stage in a somewhat reserved manner, and his playing appears (but only appears!) to be emotionless. Playing the solo part in the *Piano Concerto in E minor* by a 20-year-old Chopin, who was then bidding farewell to Poland and Warsaw, the pianist is set once again to reveal to a Budapest audience that astounding gift and profound artistry proven on so many other occasions. There is a symphony both before and after the piano concerto: the teenager-Mozart composition regularly called the 'little' G minor symphony and one of the steadfastly popular works of the Romantic Slav orchestral repertoire. The composer of the Eighth, Dvořák's most popular symphony along with *New World*, dedicated it to the Bohemian Academy of Emperor Franz Joseph for the Encouragement of Arts and Literature, in gratitude for being elected a member of the academy. The work dating from 1889, written during one of the successful and more stable periods of his career, preserves the cheerful mood of Dvořák at that time while it also reveals the deep connection he drew on from Czech landscapes.

Price with a 20% discount: 6000, 4720, 3840, 3120, 2480, 1760 HUF

Hungarian Gems 1

Nov. 27, 2022 Sunday 19:30

Ceremonial Hall, Pesti Vigadó

JUDIT VARGA: Happy Birthday, Major Ludwig! – Hungarian premiere

LÁSZLÓ DUBROVAY: Trumpet Concerto No. 2

-intermission-

DOHNÁNYI: Suite in F-sharp minor, Op. 19

Gábor Boldoczki trumpet

Concerto Budapest

Conductor: **Tibor Bogányi**

This programme of works by Hungarian composers running from 1909 to 2021, or more accurately, from 2021 back to 1909, straight away brings to mind – besides Judit Varga, László Dubrovay and Ernő Dohnányi – that German titan of classical music, Ludwig van Beethoven. The kinetic concert work Happy Birthday, Major Ludwig! was penned for the 2020 Year of Beethoven, forming a part of a collective creation that in addition to Judit Varga involved four other contemporary composers. Following on from the piece that debuted at the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie podium in 2021, next up is László Dubrovay's 2002 Trumpet Concerto No. 2 (similarly with German associations); the virtuosic solo skills of Gábor Boldoczki were also on display at the world premiere of the symphonic orchestra version of the concerto. Finally, the programme concludes with the Suite in F-sharp minor from the oeuvre of Ernő Dohnányi: the four-movement composition goes by the name of 'Romantic', although the work's (late) Romantic nature is joined by a cheerful aspect typical of the composer as well as humorous ballet and waltz allusions, as already brought to the surface on numerous occasions through the conducting of Tibor Bogányi who is well versed in the intricacies of the suite.

Price with a 20% discount: 3120, 2240 HUF