

Saturday 8 October 2022
Liszt Academy
FESTIVAL OF HUNGARIAN GEMS series

15:00 Grand Hall
Stars of the Future

HUBAY: Carmen Fantasie
LÁSZLÓ DUBROVAY: Hungarian Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra
BARTÓK: Rhapsody No. 1, BB 94b
LISZT: Hungarian Fantasy

Gáspár Kelemen, Teo Gertler violin, **Dániel Ali Lugosi** clarinet, **Mihály Boros** piano
Concerto Budapest
Conductor: **András Keller**

The programme of the classical music talent show, *Virtuosos*, focussing on the young stars of the future, encompasses more than one and a half centuries. The earliest composition, by Liszt, was written in the first half of the 1850s. Its most recent piece, Hungarian Rhapsody, for clarinet and orchestra by László Dubrovay was completed in 2006, commissioned back then for the Mahler Jubilee. Dániel Ali Lugosi plays the solo of the piece this time. There will be another rhapsody: Béla Bartók's Rhapsody No. 1 completed in 1928 and dedicated to József Szigeti. This time, it will be performed by Gáspár Kelemen. Mihály Boros will get the lion's share in the performance of the virtuoso Hungarian Phantasy so dear to our hearts. The programme will present another brilliant 19th-century phantasy: the pivotal music educator and violinist Jenő Hubay garnered his first great success as a composer with his Carmen Fantasie, written in 1876 based on Bizet's opera. Teo Gerler will prove his exceptional talent by performing it.

Price with a 20% discount: 1200 HUF

17:00 Grand Hall
Muzsikás Ensemble

Hanga Kacsó - Dani Szabó duo, Mária Petrás voice, **Kálmán Balogh** cimbalom, Muzsikás Ensemble

If we celebrate the gems of Hungarian music, we can hardly find anything more authentic than traditional folk music, Bartók's clearest spring and the domestically most popular and internationally best-known representatives of this genre: the Muzsikás Ensemble, founded in 1973. The partnership between the formation playing a pioneering role in the Hungarian traditional folk music revival and the Concerto Budapest Orchestra and András Keller goes back several decades.

At the Hungarian Gems concert, the ensemble will evoke the folk music tradition of various regions ranging from Slovenia to Transdanubia, the Great Hungarian Plain, Transylvania, from Gyimes to Moldova. Two worldwide celebrated and regular guest artists will take to the stage alongside the

ensemble. The Hungarian Heritage and Prima Primmissima Award-winning folk singer Mária Petrás acquired the then still alive csango musical tradition in her childhood. She conveys this traditional folk culture with great authenticity and precision. The Prima Primmissima Award-winning cimbalom player, Kálmán Balogh has been conducting profound research on the traditional cimbalom performance of villages since the 1970s. He took an active part in the Hungarian cimbalom-revival movement and the urban popularisation and teaching of the rural traditions. Their joint Hungarian Gems concert is a genuine curiosity recalling the most natural Hungarian music tradition.

Price with a 20% discount: 3600, 2800, 2000 HUF

19:30 Grand Hall

Liszt and Bartók

Liszt: Sonata in B minor

-intermission-

Bartók: Duke Bluebeard's Castle, BB 62

Szilvia Vörös soprano, **Gábor Bretz** bass baritone, **Dénes Várjon** piano

Concerto Budapest

Conductor: **András Keller**

Two pivotal compositions by two emblematic giants of Hungarian music, Ferenc Liszt and Béla Bartók, feature on the programme of the closing concert of Hungarian Gems Series. In his Sonata in B minor, a single grandiose piece composed for a solo instrument, the piano – played this time by Dénes Várjon, a recurring guest of Concerto Budapest –, the celebrated piano virtuoso of the 19th century, Ferenc Liszt on the peak of his career, attempted to sum up the great precursors of the genre and his own performance experience. The unusual form with four uninterrupted movements makes use of several already existing formal principles simultaneously, and it can be understood as a series of variations, just like a single movement in sonata form. Bartók's Bluebeard's Castle in the second part of the concert also carries us through Judit and Bluebeard's story without interruption. The composer completed his only opera in 1911 based on Béla Balázs' libretto, but it premiered only in 1918 in the Opera in Budapest. Two world-touring Hungarian singers, Gábor Bretz and Szilvia Vörös, will feature in the concert performance of the opera under András Keller's baton. Still, the eternal drama between man and woman, the mystery of the seven keys and seven doors, is clearly perceivable.

Price with a 20% discount: 3600, 2800, 2000 HUF

Oct. 17, 2022 Monday 19:30

Mocsári 60 - Tribute on the 70th anniversary of the birth of Zoltán Kocsis

Ceremonial Hall, Pesti Vigadó

LISZT: Piano Concerto No. 2 in A major

LISZT: Dance of Death

-intermission-

LISZT: Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, S. 124

LISZT: Hungarian Fantasy

Károly Mocsári piano

Concerto Budapest

Conductor: **Gergely Dubóczky**

“For my sixtieth birthday, I thought I would surprise myself and the audience with piano concertos by Ferenc Liszt, the composer I feel closest to, and at the same time pay tribute to the memory of the person I consider the greatest pianist, Zoltán Kocsis, who would have been 70 this year.” This is Károly Mocsári’s way of drawing the attention of the public to his remarkable concert. In fact, the pianist established a lifelong friendship with Zoltán Kocsis at the Liszt Academy. Both artists were devoted to the works of Ferenc Liszt, something that is evident in the choice of programme for this commemorative concert: as well as the two great piano concertos, the E-flat major and A major, there are two other iconic pieces in which the focus is on the interplay of orchestra and piano. Dance of Death (Totentanz) was partly inspired by a fresco in Pisa; the composer worked on it for more than 15 years until its debut in 1865. It is structured on one of the most famous Gregorian plainsongs, the Dies Irae motif, which is evident in countless works from Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique* to Rachmaninov’s *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. It is a particularly virtuoso composition, a true test of the performer, as is Hungarian Fantasy evoking folk melodies, which premiered in Pest in 1853 with Ferenc Erkel conducting and solo by Liszt’s later son-in-law, Hans von Bülow.

Price with a 20% discount: 3120, 2240 HUF

Friday 28 October 2022 19:30

Grand Hall, Liszt Academy

Shostakovich: Festive Overture, Op. 96

Mozart: Piano Concerto in E-flat major ‘Jeunehomme’, K. 271

-intermission-

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 15 in A major, Op. 141

Mihály Berecz piano

Concerto Budapest

Conductor: **Mikhail Pletnev**

An overture written to order at lightning speed and a wise farewell to the genre of the symphony, demonstratively rich in music history and self-reflections. These two iconic works by Shostakovich dominate this concert programme, the conductor of which is Mikhail Pletnev who gained world fame as a pianist in the late 1970s but who has been wielding the baton for several decades now. *Festive Overture* was written (at high speed) by Shostakovich in 1954 on the commission of the Bolshoi in Moscow as a way of celebrating the 37th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Such is

its quality that it has easily surpassed the era of 7 November commemorations. *“It’s a work that simply took hold of me, one of the few to appear clearly in my mind from the beginning, from the first note to the last. I had to do nothing other than notate it.”* This is what the composer had to say about his final, fifteenth symphony, which references, among others, the *William Tell* overture, Wagner and indeed the artist himself in the work premiering in 1972. Between the two Shostakovich works is the *Piano Concerto in E-flat major* by a 21-year-old Mozart, sobriquet ‘Jeunhomme’ or rather ‘Jenamy’, with solo by the similarly youthful Mihály Berecz.

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