



YOUNG EURO CLASSIC

Press Release

Young Euro Classic – The best of the world’s youth orchestras gather in Berlin (5th – 21st August) with a special focus on North and South America

Berlin, July 2011 – **Young Euro Classic** has been a highlight of Berlin’s summer cultural programme for more than 10 years now, establishing the German capital as a cult location for young international musicians. **From 5th – 21st August**, youth orchestras from five continents will be playing in the heart of the city and on the capital’s most beautiful square – in the Konzerthaus on the Gendarmenmarkt.

The temperament and musical originality of concerts by youth orchestras from North and South America are always especially popular with audiences, and these form a special focus at this year’s festival. The ensembles also appear as ambassadors of a concept that’s gaining a foothold all over the world: that musical education facilitates social advancement. As well as the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, which brings together young musicians from 20 South American nations, the US and Canada, Berlin will also be hosting orchestras from Brazil and Columbia.



This will be the **Youth Orchestra of the Americas’** second appearance at Young Euro Classic, under the baton of Felipe Hidalgo from Chile and Eddy Marcano from Venezuela. The ensemble captivated audiences in Berlin with its temperament back in 2006. Since 2001, the orchestra has performed more than 200 concerts at some of the most famous venues in Europe and the Americas. It has already appeared with the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Paquito D’Rivera and Plácido Domingo. The 100 members of the orchestra come from a range of nations including Costa Rica, Honduras, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, Canada and the US. The young musicians are the cream of their country’s upcoming musical talent, students who have received grants to further their musical education. School workshops and programmes aimed at improving life for the less fortunate form an integral of this orchestra’s philosophy.

The festival will be launched by Brazil’s Orquestra Juvenil da Bahia (5th August), with a programme of pieces by Liszt, Chopin and a number of contemporary South American composers. Some 100 musicians aged between 12 and 25 from all walks of life play together under the artistic direction of Ricardo Castro, who found fame himself in the 1990s as an international concert pianist. Later, as conductor of the Bahia Symphony Orchestra, he co-founded a “system” of youth or-



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orchestras establishing contacts with internationally renowned soloists. This will be the orchestra's debut at Young Euro Classic, and it will be performing with the celebrated Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires.

The Colombian **Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil Batuta Bogotá** will perform a long-awaited concert in Berlin (18th August). The ensemble is a member of the "Sistema Nacional de Orquestas Juveniles", an organisation that works to improve the future prospects of some 47,000 children and youngsters from socially deprived backgrounds. As well as 20th century works, the orchestra will also perform a piece by Colombian composer Luis Fernando Franco. "Ramón el Camaleón", composed for youth orchestras in 2003, is a variation in four parts running through a variety of tonal, rhythmic, stylistic and timbral stages.

Orchestras from Europe, Turkey, Asia, Africa and New Zealand

As well as orchestras from North and South America, the festival will also feature young ensembles from France, Germany, Poland, The Netherlands, Russia, Scandinavia, the Caucasus, Turkey, Korea and New Zealand. Not forgetting the European Union Youth Orchestra, which brings together musicians from a variety of European Union countries, under the baton of star conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy (19th August).

All concerts are programmatically conceived to ensure that both classical and contemporary works are performed. Programmes also endeavour to include unusual compositions from countries or regions producing music unfamiliar to most audiences, for example this year pieces from Africa and Turkey. The overall package is then usually completed by world premieres of pieces that have been commissioned by the festival itself.

The ensemble with the longest journey to Berlin is the **Auckland Youth Symphony Orchestra**, due to perform a wholly European programme of music by Mendelssohn, Richard Strauss and Francis Poulenc on 10th August. It is one of the world's oldest youth orchestras, founded in 1948. Since then, more than 2,000 musicians aged between 18 and 24 have been able to gain valuable orchestral experience with outstanding conductors during their time with the ensemble. Highlights in the orchestra's history include several guest tours of Tasmania, and concerts in Hawaii and on the North American continent. 2011 will be the orchestra's debut appearance at Young Euro Classic.

Tickets, which all cost 15€ can be purchased from all regular box offices, online at www.young-euro-classic.de/tickets or www.ticketmaster.de, or via Hotline 01805 9690000 (Mon.-Fri. 9am – 8pm, Sat. 10am-4pm),

Tickets can also be purchased directly at the Konzerthaus on Gendarmenmarkt (Mon. – Sat. 12 midday – 7pm, Sun. 12 midday – 4pm) or at the Kulturkaufhaus Dussmann, Friedrichstraße 90, 10117 Berlin, Mon. – Fri. 10am – 8pm, Sat. 10am-7.30pm

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