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**THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL IS INSPIRED BY
SHAKESPEARE'S VERSE, "IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON"**

44TH ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL 1 - 24 June 2016

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival, organised by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV) under the first-time sponsorship of E.C.A. Presdöküm Sanayii A.Ş., will take place between 1 - 24 June 2016. The festival will present music lovers with an impressive programme built around this year's theme inspired by Shakespeare's verse, "If Music be the Food of Love, Play On". This year's festival programme was announced at a press meeting held on Wednesday, 3 February 2016.

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival's programme was announced at a press meeting on **Wednesday, 3 February** at İKSV's Official Hotel Sponsor, **Martı Istanbul Hotel**. The speakers at the meeting included Chairman of İKSV **Bülent Eczacıbaşı**, Istanbul Music Festival Director **Yeşim Gürer Oymak**, and Elginkan Holding A.Ş. Chairwoman of the Board of Directors **Gaye Akçen**, representing festival sponsor E.C.A. Presdöküm Sanayii A.Ş.

In her speech, Istanbul Music Festival Director **Yeşim Gürer Oymak** introduced this year's festival theme, and heralded the commencement of the new **Music Route** concert series, and the return of the series **Weekend Classics** that is brought to music lovers free of charge once again.

Speaking at the press meeting, Chairman of İKSV **Bülent Eczacıbaşı** said, *"This year we realise projects with the aim of establishing and expanding a culture of, and appreciation for classical music, the main objective of the festival since its initiation. We continue the free-of-charge, open-air concerts that are realised during the weekends and we believe these concerts will allow us to reach an even wider audience. The 44th Istanbul Music Festival is sponsored by E.C.A. Presdöküm Sanayii A.Ş. and we are delighted to bring our cooperation to a new level. We believe that we will realise a very successful festival together, and we sincerely thank them for their invaluable support."*

In her speech, Elginkan Holding A.Ş. Chairwoman of the Board of Directors **Gaye Akçen** said, *"As E.C.A., which is a company of Elginkan Holding, what we stand for with our sponsorship is the unifying power of music, as a common language that is a key element to achieve peace in our country and in the world. People and communities that connect with culture, with the arts, and especially with music, never become enemies, they become the pioneers of peace. Thus, the production capacities and national income of countries increase."*

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival will host **close to 600 local and international artists**, including names like **İdil Biret, Murray Perahia, Gautier Capuçon, Angel Blue, Gérard Caussé, Herbert Schuch, Patricia Petibon, Alice Sara Ott, Maria João Pires, Antonio Meneses, Maxim Vengerov, Richard Galliano, and Sylvain Luc**, as well as some of the world's leading ensembles, such as **Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Venice Baroque Orchestra, Orchestra of the Swan, Artemis Quartet, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra**, this year's Guest Orchestra in Residence.

Hosting **two world premieres** and **one Turkey premiere**, this year's festival will feature **26 concerts**, comprising symphony and chamber orchestras, recitals, and special projects, and will take place across **17 different venues**.

One of the new additions to the festival this year, **Music Route** concert series will take festival followers on an excursion full of music and history across 5 churches in Beyoğlu: **Surp Yerrortutyun Church, Church of Panayia Isodion, Sent Antuan Lower Church, Palais de Hollande Chapel, and Crimea Memorial Church**, which will all be used as concert venues for the first time.

The **Weekend Classics** series, the free festival event that has already become a tradition, will take place at the **Garden of Austrian Culture Forum, Fenerbahçe Park, and the Garden of Sakıp Sabancı Museum**.

The **Embassy of Germany Tarabya Summer Residence, the Hagia Eirene Museum, Boğaziçi University's Albert Long Hall and South Campus, Garden of Palais de France, İş Sanat Concert Hall, Lütfi Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Centre, Süreyya Opera House, and Uniq Hall İstanbul**, will be among the other concert venues hosting the festival.

The Festival's Theme: "If Music be the Food of Love, Play On"

Building its programme around different themes since 2011, the Istanbul Music Festival is inspired by Shakespeare's famous verse, "**If Music be the Food of Love, Play On**" in this year's edition. The theme of the 44th Istanbul Music Festival will commemorate the great bard on the 400th year of his passing away with a special project.

Composed by Mendelssohn for one of Shakespeare's most colourful plays, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will bring **Orchestra of the Swan** based in Stratford-upon-Avon together with soprano **Ayşe Şenogul**, the recipient of the 2015 Leyla Gencer Voice Competition Audience Award, and stage actress **Tilbe Saran**. Young British violinist **Tamsin Waley-Cohen** will be the soloist in Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto*, the composer's final large orchestral work. The concert will be held at the **Hagia Eirene Museum** on **Friday, 3 June**.

Another concert inspired by the festival theme is also named after it: "**If Music be the Food of Love, Play On**". Taking place at **Sent Antuan Lower Church** on **10 June**, the concert draws its strength from Shakespeare's ageless works, combined with **Alexei Volodin's** musical sensitivity and the powerful acting of **Mert Firat** and **Tilbe Saran**. The night, which will open with the eternal love of *Romeo and Juliet*, two characters who have been an inspiration to many composers, will also feature Mendelssohn's incidental music *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Medtner's Fairy Tale No.4 inspired by *King Lear*. The works will be presented along with scenes from Shakespeare's plays, once again brought to life by the masterful actress of Turkey's theatre, **Tilbe Saran** and a talented actor of the younger generation, **Mert Firat**.

The festival's Lifetime Achievement and Honorary Awards

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival's **Honorary Award** will be presented to composer **İlhan Baran**, for his contributions to the standing of Turkish music, both in the country and in the world, through his compositions and his work in education. Still teaching at Bilkent University's Faculty of Music and Performing Arts, **Baran's** students have included Fazıl Say, Muhiddin Dürüoğlu-Demiriz, Yeşim Alkaya, Burçin Büke, Oya Ünler, and Ayşe Deniz Gökçin. **Baran**, whose compositions for piano have become part of the core conservatory curriculum, will be presented his award at the opening ceremony to be held on Wednesday, **1 June** at the **Lütfi Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Centre**.

The festival's **Lifetime Achievement Award** will be presented to **Murray Perahia**, one of the legendary pianists of our time. Having performed in the world's leading concert halls and festivals, recorded countless albums, and received multiple Gramophone awards, as well as two Grammy's, **Perahia** will receive his award preceding his concert at the **Hagia Eirene Museum** on **Monday, 6 June**, with one of the most esteemed orchestras in the world, **Academy of St Martin in the Fields**.

The festival's commission brings one master and three young musicians together

The Istanbul Music Festival, which has been contributing to the expansion of contemporary music repertoire for the past six years by commissioning composers, will host the world premiere of its commission to **Özkan Manav**. As part of the Istanbul Music Festival's **Festival Encounter** series, **Trio Arte** will come together with famous cellist **Gérard Caussé** for a special concert. The **Trio Arte** ensemble comprises violinist **Veriko Tchumburidze**, cellist **Dorukhan Doruk**, and pianist **Yunus Tuncalı**, all three of whom have achieved great success at a young age and have received support from Güher-Süher Pekinel's "Young Musicians on World Stages" project, and they will perform the world premiere of **Özkan Manav's** *Ludus Modalis* at **Sent Antuan Lower Church** on Wednesday, **15 June**.

A musical journey across historic venues at the festival: Music Route

Having taken its audience on unforgettable musical journeys through unique concerts thus far, this year's Istanbul Music Festival programme includes a new concert series, entitled **Music Route**. Held across Beyoğlu's historic venues, the concerts will begin at the **Surp Yerrortutyun Church**, and will then continue along its course with the **Church of Panayia Isodion**, **Sent Antuan Lower Church**, **Palais de Hollande Chapel** dating back to 1711, and the **Crimea Memorial Church** respectively. **Music Route** introducing young musicians to the festival audience, will be held as **two separate sessions** at 11:00 and 12:00, on Saturday, **4 June**, during the festival's opening weekend.

A piano marathon by İdil Biret

The festival will present music lovers with a piano marathon by the great virtuoso **İdil Biret**, who has left her mark on classical music as an interpreter since the second half of the 20th century and celebrating her 75th birthday this year. **İdil Biret** will meet the festival audience at **Boğaziçi University Albert Long Hall** on **2 June**, the **Süreyya Opera House** on **5 June**, and the **Hagia Eirene Museum** on **8 June**, performing a marathon featuring a wide repertoire, ranging from the baroque period to 20th century music.

Total music theatre based on Yaşar Kemal's novel *The Sea-Crossed* at the festival

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival will host one Turkey and two world premieres, one of which is commissioned specially by the festival. The world premiere of Michael Ellison's total music theatre based on **Yaşar Kemal's** 1978 novel, ***The Sea-Crossed Fisherman***, will take place at the Istanbul Music Festival. Michael Ellison's work, with **Simon Jones'** libretto and stage direction, **Zeynep Tanbay's** choreography, and **NohLab's** video scenography, promises to be a complete musical and visual feast, depicting a dramatic, and at times surreal interaction between lyricism and idealism and the most basic human longings and darker truths. **The Sea-Crossed Fisherman** will have its world premiere in two sessions, as a matinee and soiree at the **Süreyya Opera House** on **11 June**, following **Cevat Çapan's** speech on Yaşar Kemal and his novel *The Sea-Crossed Fisherman* at 19:00, as part of the **Pre-concert Talks**.

A musical fairy tale for children at the festival: *The Witch and the Maestro*

This year, the 44th Istanbul Music Festival programme will also feature a special project for children. Written by British conductor **Howard Griffiths** and composed by **Fabian Künzli**, the musical fairy tale of **the Witch and the Maestro** presents classical music to children in an entertaining way. Along with the **Brandenburg State Orchestra** and the narration of **Bergüzar Korel**, who has received several Best Actress awards for her performances in film and television, **the Witch and the Maestro** will take place in **two sessions** at **Uniq Hall Istanbul** on **12 June**.

Festival concerts across gardens

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival will hold concerts held at the Embassy of Germany Tarabya Summer Residence, the French Palace Garden and Boğaziçi University's South Campus.

Isabelle van Keulen Ensemble, formed of leading performers of their generation, bandoneon player **Christian Gerber**, double bass player **Rüdiger Ludwig**, pianist **Ulrike Payer**, besides **Isabelle van Keulen** herself in 2011, will be performing **Nuevo Tango**. The style, created by Astor Piazzola, masterfully blends traditional tango melodies with classical music forms and elements of jazz. **Nuevo Tango** that brings a romantic air to the modern world of the 20th century, will open a door from the **Embassy of Germany Tarabya Summer Residence's** grove leading to the streets of Argentina, on **16 June**.

The Istanbul Music Festival starts a new series with the **Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra** and takes classical music out under the moonlight. Held on a night lit by the full moon, amongst the greenery of Boğaziçi University, the soloists of **Songs to the Full Moon**, soprano **Teona Dvali** and tenor **Andrej Dunaev** will perform a selection ranging from Dvorák's *Aria to the Moon* to Puccini's tender *O mio babbino caro*, while the **Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra** will perform a rendition of the *Carmen Suites*, under the baton of Uzbekistani maestro **Aziz Shokhakimov**.

The festival will commemorate the iconic voice of France, who interpreted some of the most beautiful love songs of the 20th century, **Edith Piaf**, with a special concert. One of the greatest accordionists of the modern era with a compositional range including classical music and jazz, **Richard Galliano** and unimpeachable jazz guitarist **Sylvian Luc** will be the festival's guests, reinterpreting **Piaf's** unforgettable chansons to honour the then centenary of the year of her birth. This special project from 2015 will be held at the **French Palace Garden** on **22 June**.

The festival's Guest Orchestra in Residence Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra will perform two nights in a row

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival's Guest Orchestra in Residence, **Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra** will meet the festival goers two nights in a row, at the **İş Sanat Concert Hall** on **17** and **18 June**. Having completed close to 140 tours across five continents and won many awards including a Grammy for its discography of over 50 albums, **Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra's** first concert will feature the multi-Echo Klassik winner pianist **Herbert Schuch**. The concert will be host to the **Turkey premiere** of one of the most important musical discoveries of recent years, **Polish composer Weinberg's** *Symphony No.4*. For their second performance, **Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra**, conducted by **Jacek Kaspszyk**, will perform the most beloved works by 19th century Europe's greatest composers, with stellar cellist **Gautier Capuçon** and will also give a nod to the festival theme by playing two masterworks inspired by Shakespeare.

Supporters of the Istanbul Music Festival

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival is organised with the support of several **performance sponsors**, in addition to **Festival Sponsor E.C.A. Presdöküm Sanayii A.Ş.** Performance sponsors include **Mercedes-Benz Türk AŞ**, **Türkiye İş Bank**, **SEREL**, **Borusan Holding**, **TSKB**, **Tekfen Foundation**, **ENKA Foundation**, **Işıklar Holding**, **MMK Metalurji**, **Bell Holding**, **Organik Holding**, **bluechip Creative Events**, **Berrin Erengül**, **Çiltuğ A.Ş.**, **Eva Barlas**, **Galip Kaynar** and **Nahide Koral**. Additionally, **Borusan Holding** undertakes the sponsorship of the festival's Orchestra in Residence, the **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra (BIFO)**.

The 44th Istanbul Music Festival is supported by the **Ministry of Culture and Tourism**, the **Governorship of Istanbul**, the **Istanbul Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism**, the **Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality**, the **Beyoğlu District Governorship**, and the **Beyoğlu Municipality**.

The festival also takes place thanks to the cooperation of **General Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany**, **Consulat General de France**, **Austrian Culture Forum**, **Boğaziçi University**, **British Council**, **Culture.pl**, **European Research Council**, **Etor Charity Foundation**, **Urs Grunder**, **Goethe Institut**, **Consulate General of the Netherlands**, **Institut Français Istanbul**, **Istituto Italiano di Cultura**, **İş Sanat**, **Kadıköy Municipality**, **Crimea Memorial Church**, **Church of Panayia Isodion**, **Sakıp Sabancı Museum**, **Sent Antuan Lower Church**, **Süreyya Opera House**, **Turkish Airlines**, **Uniq Hall İstanbul**, **Surp Yerrortutyun Church**.

The Leading Sponsor of the **Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts** is **Eczacıbaşı Holding**, the Official Communications Sponsor is **Vodafone Turkey**, the Official Carrier is **DHL**, the Official Hotel Sponsor is **Martı Istanbul Hotel**, the Service Sponsors are **Zurich Insurance Group** and **Memorial Health Group**, and the City Transportation is supported by **Antonina Tourism**.

The **publicity campaign** for the 44th Istanbul Music Festival was conducted by **Alametifarika**.

Festival Tickets

Tickets for the 44th Istanbul Music Festival will be on sale as of **10:00** on **Saturday, 13 February** and can be purchased through:

- **Biletix retail outlets**,
- **Biletix Call Centre** (+90 216 556 98 00),
- **Biletix web site** (www.biletix.com),
- **İKSV's Main Box Office** (The main box office is open between 10:00 – 18:00 and is closed on Sundays, except for 14 February.)

Festival tickets will also be on sale at the box office at the **Hagia Eirene Museum** throughout the festival. **Tulip Card holders** have special discounts of **up to 25%** and can also purchase priority tickets. Black and White Tulip members can purchase their tickets on 8 and 9 February, while Red and Yellow Tulip members can purchase their tickets between 10–12 February.

A limited number of tickets will be on sale for the festival's opening ceremony on **Wednesday, 1 June** at the **Lütfi Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Centre**.

Music and vocal department conservatory students attend festival concerts free-of-charge

Students in the music and vocal departments of conservatories attend the Istanbul Music Festival concerts free-of-charge. Students will need to receive reservation approval by sending an e-mail to rezervasyon@iksv.org, including their name and student certificates one day prior to the concert that they would like to attend. Reservations will be approved on the basis of available capacity.

The **44th Istanbul Music Festival programme booklet** is available at İKSV (*Nejat Eczacıbaşı Building, Sadi Konuralp Caddesi No: 5, Şişhane*) and Biletix retail outlets.

For detailed information: muzik.iksv.org/en

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