

THE PÄRNU MUSIC FESTIVAL 10 - 17 AUGUST 2017



"At the Pärnu Festival on Estonia's Baltic coast, the "kingdom" of the Järvi family: a musical dynasty that has guaranteed the perfect balance between tradition and future."

Musica, Italy

Estonia's Summer Capital, Pärnu, is a charming, old-fashioned seaside resort just one-and-a-half-hours South of Tallinn which holds an important place in the hearts of many Estonians and in particular the Järvi family. It was here that they came every summer to spend the two month summer vacation with Neeme's mother before emigrating to the States in 1980 during Soviet occupation. And it is the place where the family were eventually able to reunite after Estonian Independence, to create their long-dreamed of festival - a chance to showcase the culture and beauty of their native country and nurture the next generation of musicians.

Now in its seventh year the 2017 Pärnu Music Festival runs from 10 - 17 August and is special as it celebrates the **80th birthday of Neeme Järvi**, reuniting friends and family for an important milestone. Whilst the traditional highlights of the Pärnu Music Festival are the conducting masterclasses and performances by the Estonian Festival Orchestra, Neeme Järvi has been "persuaded" to relinquish his backseat role and take to the podium for this year's opening festival concert on 10 August. Joining him are the **Tallinn Chamber Orchestra** and soloist **Kolja Blacher** in a programme featuring the music of Beethoven, Mozart and Estonian composer Jaan Rääts. Neeme will then be able to change back into his much prized Pärnu Festival tee-shirt and resume his passion for guiding the young musicians on the Järvi Academy courses.

With a festival which places the orchestra at its heart, Neeme and Paavo Järvi are on hand throughout the week to advise the young musicians participating in both the annual **Järvi Conducting Academy** and **Academy Youth Orchestra**, which are the focus of festival concerts on 11 and 12 August.

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Paavo Järvi and **The Estonian Festival Orchestra** take to the stage for two performances in the second half of the festival with a focus on the music of Beethoven, Nielsen, Sibelius, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky, featuring guest artists, **Radu Lupu** and **Lisa Batshvili**. The much talked of ensemble, which Paavo founded in 2011, brings together the best of Estonian professional talent and invited musicians from orchestras throughout Europe. "An important component in creating the Estonian Festival Orchestra was to 'match-make' the players in a professional way but within the festival atmosphere" says Järvi. "This unifying spirit is what drives the orchestra and results in a passionate energy which brings us all even closer together."

Until now the Estonian Festival Orchestra has only performed in Pärnu but this summer it makes its first tour with performances around the Baltic coast, thanks to the co-operation of the Estonia 100 programme and the Ministry of Culture. The summer tour includes concerts in **Latvia** (14 August), **Finland** (19 August), **Denmark** (22 August) and **Sweden** (24 August). In January 2018, Estonian Festival Orchestra will make its second international tour with concerts in **Brussels, Zurich, Vienna, Cologne, Berlin, and Luxembourg**.

Further highlights of this year's Pärnu Festival include a profile on the Georgian composer **Giya Kancheli**, a concert featuring Estonian composers **Erki-Sven Tüür** and **Toivo Tulev** and a tribute to one of Estonia's leading 20th century composers, **Veijo Tormis**, who died earlier this year.



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Thursday 10 August

20.00 - Pärnu Concert Hall

Tallinn Chamber Orchestra
Neeme Järvi (conductor)
Kolya Blacher (violin)
Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D major
Rääts: Concerto for Chamber Orchestra
Mozart: Symphony No. 29, K.201

Friday 11 August

19:00 Pärnu Concert Hall

Järvi Academy Youth Orchestra
Arete Teemets (soprano)
Triin Ruubel (violin)
Programme to be announced

22.00 - St Elisabeth's Church

Signum Quartet
Janacek: Quartet No. 2 "Intimate Letters"
Schubert: Quartet no.13 in A Minor
"Rosamunde"

Saturday 12 August

20.00 - Pärnu Concert Hall

Järvi Academy Youth Symphony
Orchestra and participants of the
Academy conducting course
Peijun Xu (viola)
Mozart: overture to *Don Giovanni*
Berlioz: Harold in Italy
Rachmaninov : Symphony no. 1

Sunday 13 August

17.00 - Villa Ammende

Childrens Concert

Sunday 13 August

20.00 - Pärnu Concert Hall

Estonian Festival Orchestra
Paavo Järvi (conductor)
Radu Lupu (piano)
Shostakovich: Chamber Symphony
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 1

Monday 14 August

20.00 - Pärnu Concert Hall

European Union Youth Orchestra
Vasily Petrenko (conductor)
Christian Lindberg (trombone)
Nielsen: Overture Masquerade
Arvo Pärt: *Fratres*
Lindberg: Golden Eagle concerto
Sibelius: Symphony No. 1

Tuesday 15 August

20.00 - Pärnu Concert Hall

Night of Estonian Music featuring works by
Veljo Tormis, Erki-Sven Tüür & Toivo Tulev

Wednesday 16 August

20.00 - Pärnu Concert Hall

Festival Gala
Programme to be announced

Thursday 17 August

20.00 - Pärnu Concert Hall

Estonian Festival Orchestra
Paavo Järvi (conductor)
Lisa Batiashvili (violin)
Giya Kancheli: V & V
Nielsen: Aladdin Suite
Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto
Sibelius: Symphony No. 2