

**Dresden Music Festival 2010
Glashütte Original Music Festival Award 2010 for Valery Gergiev
Award Ceremony on 25 May at Kulturpalast Dresden**

Dresden, 27 April 2010. The Russian star conductor **Valery Gergiev** is the winner of the 2010 Glashütte Original Music Festival Award. The announcement was made by Jan Vogler, Intendant of Dresden Music Festival, and Günter Wiegand, Managing Director of the Glashütter Uhrenbetrieb GmbH, at the press conference today.

The watch manufactory Glashütte Original awards the prize to a personality of musical life who has made special efforts to support young talented artists and give new impetus to the world of music. The **prize money of 25,000 Euros** is to be used in the spirit of the award, to support young artists even further. The award ceremony takes place annually during the Dresden Music Festival. From 2004 to 2009, the prize, originally named SAECULUM was awarded to Kurt Masur, John Neumeier, Joachim Herz, Gidon Kremer, Christa Ludwig and Gustavo Dudamel.

Valery Gergiev is delighted with the **award**: »My feelings for Dresden are very strong, for it was here where I made my first steps in music business. It is also a great honor to take my place alongside the former prize winners.« The conductor has already announced that in accordance with the award's conditions, he will donate the money to the International Tchaikovsky Competition, one of the most important music competitions in the world.

Born in 1953 in Moscow, Valery Gergiev first began studying piano, but then switched to conducting with great success. At the age of 22, he won the Conductors' Competition of the Soviet Republics, and at 23, the Herbert von Karajan Conductors' Competition in Berlin. Since 1977, Gergiev has worked as conductor at the Kirov Theater in Leningrad, now known as the **Mariinsky Theater St. Petersburg**. In 1988, he became its Artistic Director, and since 1996 he is also its Executive Director. Under his leadership, the Mariinsky Theater has become one of the world's most renowned cultural institutions. He has also founded various music festivals and supports the Mariinsky Academy of Young Singers. Among his great discoveries is the soprano Anna Netrebko, who was given her first chance to shine in the role of Susanna in »Le nozze di Figaro« by Gergiev in 1994.

At the Dresden Music Festival, Valery Gergiev will conduct the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre St. Petersburg, with Hélène Grimaud as soloist at **Dresden's Kulturpalast on May 25, 2010 at 8:00 pm**. The program features Wagner's »Tannhäuser« Overture, Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major and Tchaikovsky's Symphony »Pathétique«: three grand pieces that are surely in good hands with Maestro Gergiev. The official award ceremony takes place the same evening.

The Dresden Music Festival is delighted to receive financial support from **three main sponsors** this year. In addition to the close partners Glashütte Original and Volkswagen's »Die Gläserne Manufaktur« (The Transparent Factory) in Dresden, we are happy to count the Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden and the Sparkassen-Versicherung Sachsen among our partners as well.