



DRESDEN
MUSIC FESTIVAL

Glashütte Original Music Festival Award Ceremony 2010 on May 25 at the Kulturpalast in Dresden

Dresden, May 26, 2010. Yesterday evening, visitors of the Dresden Music Festival were able to witness an extraordinary concert: Under the musical direction of Valery Gergiev, the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre St. Petersburg and the Russian pianist Denis Matsuev performed works by Tchaikovsky und Rachmaninov. The guest appearance at the Dresden Kulturpalast also formed the official backdrop for the awarding of the Glashütte Original Music Festival Award 2010 to the Russian star conductor.

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. Previous prize-winners include Kurt Masur, John Neumeier, Joachim Herz, Gidon Kremer, Christa Ludwig and Gustavo Dudamel.

Valery Gergiev said he was honoured that the award was given to him in Dresden, "one of the world's most important musical cities". Not only because of his personal relationship with the city, in which he began his musical career about 30 years ago, but also because of the common history it shares with St. Petersburg. The conductor was delighted about being able to use the prize money to provide even greater support to young artists. He will donate it to the International Tchaikovsky Competition, in order to help it become a »powerful symbol of Russian music« once again. Since 1958, up-and-coming artists have competed in this competition in Moscow every four years in the categories piano, violin, cello and voice.

Just as in the past years, two watchmaking apprentices from the Alfred Helwig Watchmaking School undertook the construction of the Glashütte Original Music Festival Award. The school forms part of the Glashütte Original Watch Manufactory and trains twelve watchmakers and three toolmakers every year. The prize's design combines traditional watch making craftsmanship with modern materials. The flying Tourbillon, with its 18 tiny weight screws, symbolises the virtuosity of the watchmakers. It is regarded as a sign of the highest levels of the art of watchmaking and was developed in Glashütte in about 1920.

Contact

Dresden Music Festival press office
An der Dreikönigskirche 1
01097 Dresden
Phone: (0049) 351 478 56 -24 or -11
E-mail: presse@musikfestspiele.com