



DRESDEN
MUSIC FESTIVAL

Press release: 33rd Dresden Music Festival Ends on a High Note

Dresden, 6 June 2010. In a fitting conclusion to »Russlandia«, the spectacular 33rd edition of the Dresden Music Festival, the public was treated to a wonderful open-air concert featuring David Krakauer's »Klezmer Madness!«, a fascinating mix of Klezmer, jazz, rock, funk, soul, blues and hip-hop. The Intendant of the Dresden Music Festival, Jan Vogler, is delighted with the result: »We are very happy with the enthusiasm of the audience and the wonderful atmosphere throughout the Festival. The beautiful weather of the final weekend made parting from 'Russlandia' a little easier for us.«

Highlights of the Festival included performances by some of Russia's most celebrated orchestras – the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre St. Petersburg conducted by Valery Gergiev, the Russian National Orchestra led by Mikhail Pletnev, and the orchestra, chorus and soloists of the Bolshoi Theatre Moscow under Vassily Sinaisky. As well, there were outstanding performances by Mischa Maisky, Emanuel Ax, Murray Perahia and Martin Stadtfeld. Two unusual projects offered a number of Dresden citizens the opportunity to showcase their talents. In »Let's Dance! The firebird« about 120 young people stepped on the stage for the first time to dance to Stravinsky's The Firebird. They had worked for five weeks to learn the special choreography created by Josef Eder and Royston Maldoom. The second project was »Anatevka«, a musical-theatre piece created and performed by 30 amateur actors and singers.

Other special moments included the presentation of the Glashütte Original Music Festival Award to celebrated Russian conductor Valery Gergiev. The Award is given annually at the Festival to honour an artist who encourages and promotes young artists. Maestro Gergiev received the Award during the concert by the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre which he was conducting. He announced that the 25,000 Euros prize money would be given to the International Tchaikovsky Competition to support young artists. An especially touching moment of the festival was the Dresden premiere of Tigran Mansurian's cello concerto by Jan Vogler and the WDR Sinfonieorchester under the direction of Semyon Bychkov. In recognition of this poignant work, the composer received a much-deserved standing ovation.

The 2010 Festival's success by numbers: 93% of the tickets were sold, compared to 90% in 2009, the revenue was also up by 20% over last year making the 33rd Dresden Music Festival the most successful in its history. Over 52% of tickets were sold to audience members from the Dresden area, with 38% coming from elsewhere in Germany. International participation increased to 10%.

The Dresden Music Festival could not happen without the support of the government and its corporate partners. The Festival thanks the City of Dresden and the State of Saxony for their invaluable contribution, along with Volkswagen's Die Gläserne Manufaktur (The Transparent Factory), the watch manufacturer Glashütte Original, and the Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden (East Saxon Savings Bank and Insurance Saxonia), as well as many project and media partners.

The 2011 Dresden Music Festival will take place from May 19 to June 5. The program will be announced at a press conference in October 2010.

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