

THE BÉLA BARTÓK SERIES OF THE SALZBURG FESTIVAL 2008

IS PRESENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CHARLES SIMONYI FUND FOR ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Salzburg Festival and The Salzburg Festival Society thank the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences for its generous commitment of one million dollars toward the Béla Bartók Series – this is the largest gift ever made to the Festival from a U.S. Foundation. The leadership of the SF, SFS and the artists who will bring to life this innovative program are deeply appreciative to the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences.

Background

Jürgen Flimm, the Artistic Director/Intendant of the Salzburg Festival since 2006, has put a focus on Salzburg as a melting pot between East, West, North and South. In this context, Mr. Flimm and Markus Hinterhaeuser, the Festival's Concerts Director, have created a program that presents Hungarian composers from the era of the Austrian Hungarian Empire to the present. The Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences has given the Salzburg Festival the wherewithal to craft this ambitious undertaking.

Béla Bartók

Béla Bartók (1881, Nagyszentmiklos, Hungary -1945, New York, New York) was without doubt one of the 20th Century's most important composers. The Salzburg Festival is honored to dedicate a prominent series to him and many of his seminal works. In addition, there will be an interesting exploration of Bartók's works, especially in his chamber music, in comparison to Beethoven and Debussy.

A Summary of the Series

The highlight of the Vienna Philharmonic's opening concert series is Bartók's Piano concerto No.1 (July 27 and 29). Two legends will interpret this work: Daniel Barenboim at the keyboard and Pierre Boulez at the podium

Another key component of the Bartók Series is a new production of Bartók's "Bluebeard's Castle". The opera performances also include two additional works by Bartók, the "Four Pieces for Orchestra" and the "Cantata Profana". The Hungarian conductor Peter Eötvös will lead soloists, The Vienna State Opera Choir and the incomparable Vienna Philharmonic at the Grosse Festspielhaus (August 6, 14, 18 and 23).

Additionally, The Cleveland Orchestra, recognized internationally as one of the world's great orchestras, will perform works by Bartók in two of its three concerts (August 19 and 24).

Two chamber music concerts at the Mozarteum include important works by Bartók (August 18 and 26). Daniel Barenboim and Lang Lang will perform a recital in which Bartók's Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion will serve as the centerpiece (July 28). Violinist Vadim Repin's recital will feature Bartók's Rhapsodie No. 1 in the Haus für Mozart, Salzburg's new venue.

Bartok Series as in the SF Programm 2008:

Béla Bartók • Bluebeard's Castle

Opera in one act, op. 11 Sz 48
Text by Béla Balázs after a fairy-tale by Charles Perrault
and
Four Pieces for Orchestra op. 12, Sz 51

Cantata profana – The Nine Enchanted Stags
for tenor, baritone, double chorus and orchestra, Sz 94
Text after Romanian ballads

Béla Bartók • Concerts

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1, Sz 83
Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 3, Sz 119
Concerto for Viola and Orchestra, Sz 120
Rhapsody for Violin and Piano No. 1, Sz 87
Sonata for two Pianos and Percussion, Sz 110
String Quartet No. 1, op. 7, Sz 40
String Quartet No. 3, Sz 85
The Miraculous Mandarin, op. 19, Sz 73



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