



HERBSTGOLD – Festival 2024 in Eisenstadt Music as an act of „Seduction“

From 11 to 22 September 2024, the festival director Julian Rachlin has again invited internationally recognized artists to Eisenstadt, including Sir Bryn Terfel, Martha Argerich, Gautier Capuçon and the actor Karl Markovics. The London Philharmonia Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra will be performing live for the first time in Eisenstadt.

Since 2017 major names of the international music scene have made guest appearances at the HERBSTGOLD festival in the Burgenland. In 2021 the internationally renowned violinist, conductor and director Julian Rachlin became festival director. He is now responsible for the eighth festival. With this



v.l.n.r. Karl Markovics, Stefan Ottrubay, Barbara Rett, Julian Rachlin, Frantisek Janoska (c) Andreas Tischler

year's motto, **“Seduction“**, Julian Rachlin directly emphasises the purpose of a concert, a musical performance, for himself and in general: *“As artists our motivation is to transport the audience into different spheres – both emotionally and intellectually. Music is an act of seduction – like artistic hypnosis. This is the foundation of an unforgettable musical experience – music lives from the energy that it draws from the audience and that the listeners in the concert hall give back to us.“*

HERBSTGOLD 2024 – seduction with world-class artists

This year once again, an abundance of high-calibre concerts given by artists in a wide variety of genres will perform musical delights to enchant the audiences. They will be taken to the heart of the programme right away on 11 September by the **opening concert** with a legend of the piano, Martha Argerich, in Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, a suite composed in 1886 as a piece of fun at carnival time in Austria. Along with Iddo Bar-Shaï in the role of squirrel, the pianist will scurry across the keys, and the actor Annie Dutoit-Argerich will give a reading. The Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the resident orchestra and p, will captivate the audience at this concert evening with two symphonies by the *genius loci* Joseph Haydn: Symphony no. 82 and Symphony no. 100. The second concert by the resident orchestra will be conducted by Julian Rachlin on 14 September. In the programme for that evening, Beethoven's Fifth Piano Concerto, played by that magician of the keys Yefim Bronfman, will be followed by Tchaikovsky's thunderous Fourth Symphony.

The festival director Julian Rachlin, who is highly regarded by audiences, will also participate as a chamber musician. For 19 September he has brought together an exquisite sextet and septet consisting of Sarah McElravy, Claudio Bohórquez, Itamar Golan, Dominik Wagner, Andrzej Cieplinski and Etienne Boudreault – all without exception masters of their instrument. The programme features, alongside

Beethoven's Septet in E-flat Major, no. 20, the Sextet for Clarinet, Horn, Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano, WV 3734, by Krzysztof Penderecki, which received its world premiere in the presence of the composer in 2000 at the Musikverein in Vienna, with Julian Rachlin as one of the performers. As the guiding spirit of HERBSTGOLD, on 21 and 22 September Rachlin will take the rostrum for the festival finale with two top orchestras, conducting the London Philharmonia Orchestra and taking the role of soloist in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, op. 64. The evening concert on 21 September will open with the overture of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and concluded by Mendelssohn's Third Symphony, known as the Scottish Symphony. The final "seduction" of the festival will be undertaken by Rachlin in collaboration with one of the most sought-after cellists of the present day: the French musician Gautier Capuçon, with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra; since the autumn of 2023, Rachlin has been lead conductor of this ensemble, founded in 1938. Bookended by Mieczysław Weinberg's Symphony no. 1 and the First Symphony of Johannes Brahms, Gautier Capuçon will enchant the Eisenstadt audience in Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1.

Top-class debuts and proven festival favourites

Both the Russian pianist **Polina Osetinskaya** and **Sir Bryn Terfel** are making their HERBSTGOLD debut in 2024. In a recital on 14 September the pianist, who has a stellar reputation, will present ambitious works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert and Frédéric Chopin. The internationally celebrated Welsh bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel sang a Kyrie in Welsh in 2023 at the coronation of King Charles III in Westminster Abbey. For Eisenstadt on 13 September he has put together a programme of refinement, with lieder by Gerald Finzi, Franz Schubert, Claude Debussy and others. In addition to this, the involvement for the first time of the actor **Karl Markovics**, who will take part in the festival in various roles, is eagerly anticipated. For 15 September Markovics has created an evening programme focussing on music that was prohibited during the Nazi years. More than 200 composers were persecuted and forced to flee by the National Socialists, and dozens of them never returned from the concentration camps. But wonderful music was written there too! The actor Karl Markovics will present several of these once-banned masterpieces. The music for this event was selected by Julian Rachlin. The other performers are Boris Brovtsyn, Andrey Baranov, Amihai Grosz, Boris Andrianow, Itamar Golan and Wenzel Fuchs. On 17 September the film *Die Fälscher (The Counterfeiters; Austria/Germany 2007*, screenplay and direction by Stefan Ruzowitzky), with Karl Markovics and August Diehl in the leading roles. In 2008 this movie gained the Academy Award for the best foreign-language film – the first such award of an Oscar for a film from Austria. In the event **Talk um 6**, Karl Markovics and others will discuss the subject of "degenerate art".

The **Janoska Ensemble**, a firm fixture of the festival, will give a guest performance on 12 September in the Haydn Room with the 100 Gipsy Violins. The meeting of the Janoska Ensemble in Eisenstadt with the legendary Gipsy Violins, whose official name is 100 Tagú Cigányzenekar Országos Kulturális és Közművelődési Egyesület, is sure to be a pinnacle of this musical genre. The idea for this unique orchestra with its special instrumentation (strings with clarinets and cymbals) was conceived in 1984 on the occasion of the funeral of the internationally celebrated Primás king, Sándor Járóka senior (1922–1984), in Budapest. When stars of the Romani music scene assembled from all over the world to play together in honour of the deceased, the wish was born to shape this concentration of virtuosity and expressiveness into an institution.

What would the HERBSTGOLD Festival be without Schloss Esterházy? In 2024 once again this magnificent Baroque palace, a stand-out location among the concert venues of the international festival season, will shine in splendour. From the very start, Julian Rachlin has regarded the palace as a special place where world stars can appear in exquisite surroundings and delight their audiences with supreme artistic achievement. At the same time, HERBSTGOLD also sees itself as a festival that covers a wide range: from classical performances of great orchestral concertos and piano recitals to evenings of lieder, chamber music and combined programmes of literature and music, complemented by unforgettable performances of jazz, Balkan or world music and accompanied by the Pan O'Gusto culinary festival. As in previous years there will be thematically related art installations by NOW Esterhazy Contemporary in the palace quarter. A new 11-flag project on the Schlossplatz square is planned, for example, as well as a continuation of the Gartenkünste (Arts of the Garden). The palace park will gain a permanent work of art on the occasion of HERBSTGOLD, as in the case of last year's installation SALA TERRENA. For this purpose the renowned Franco-German artist Katinka Bock is currently working on a multi-part sculptural ensemble to be placed in the watercourse of the recently restored bridge cascade.

Esterhazy provides impulses for cultural tourism

Thanks to internationally recognised artists such as Kirill Gerstein, Angelika Kirchschrager and the Isidore String Quartet, as well as the legendary Hollywood actor George Hamilton, in 2023 the festival was attended by more than 5,500 visitors. Lovers of music and art came from all over the world and enjoyed a multi-faceted programme with top-calibre performers and fascinating discussions and events. The president of the Esterhazy Private Foundation, **Stefan Ottrubay**, sees the HERBSTGOLD Festival as a long-term success in the Burgenland: *"The visitor numbers confirm that the festival format resonates with the mood of our times. I would like to thank Julian Rachlin for another varied programme and look forward to 'seduction' in 2024. In common with other cultural concepts, Esterhazy now has an established place in the international art and cultural scene, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors from Austria and abroad to the Burgenland. In the Hotel Galántha opposite Esterházy Palace we have created accommodation and in the spirit of our mission as a foundation have made a further contribution to tourism and thus to the prosperity of the region."*

**HERBST
GOLD** FESTIVAL IN
EISENSTADT

11 - 22 September 2024

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