PRESS RELEASE
MUSIC FESTIVAL POTSDAM SANS SOUCI 2013

In 2013 the musical discovery that is Music Festival Potsdam Sanssouci maps the way from Potsdam’s palaces and gardens to Scandinavia. Altogether more than 60 concerts, operas, open-airs in the palace gardens such as folk in the garden, outings, boat trips, home concerts or the bicycle concert trace the musical-cultural relations connecting the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden over the centuries with the German speaking territories. According to Andrea Palent, the festival’s Artistic Director: »Scandinavia’s stunningly creative Old-Music-and-folk-scene will bring a breath of fresh air to Potsdam’s gardens.«

Scandinavia is closer to Potsdam than one might think. Luise Ulrike of Prussia, sister of Frederic II was crowned Queen of Sweden. Scandinavian screen goddesses played an important role in the founding myth of UFA film making in Babelsberg: Asta Nielsen, Greta Garbo, Zarah Leander … The statue of »the Blessing Christ« in the atrium of the Church of Peace Sanssouci is modelled on Bertel Thorvaldsen’s original in Copenhagen’s Church of Our Lady. And the Imperial Sailors’ Station Kongsnæs at Jungfernsee bears witness to William II’s enthusiasm for Norway. To this day tourists are magically drawn to Nordic nature and myths, just like the »Travelling Emperor« was.

Owing to the »discovery« of folk music, composers such as Edvard Grieg and Niels W.Gade found their own language and brought refreshingly new sounds to musical Europe. Today Scandinavia’s Old Music and folk scene inspires with fearlessly creative ways of handling traditions and creates new music that does away all limitations of style and genre. In 2013 Potsdam is the place where artists such as Anne Sofie von Otter, the Trondheim Soloists and Concerto Copenhagen meet folk stars such as the duo Hazelius Hedin or the virtuosic Hardanger violinist Benedicte Maurseth. There’s also a lot in store for children: a boat trip, the feature film Wickie und die starken Männer with live orchestra accompaniment and Korall Koral, an opera for babies. Two new, international productions of 18th century Scandinavian operas are staged at Palace Theatre Sanssouci. The Danish folk opera Peter’s Wedding is staged again after 220 years and the Swedish one-act-opera Proserpin presents Joseph Martin Kraus as one of the most original and innovative creators of operas in his age. The metal strung lute instrument orpharion, which was popular at the Danish court, a midsummer’s troll night in Sanssouci or joik, the overtonal singing of the Sami people and ancient bronze lures – they are all waiting to be discovered when the Music Festival Potsdam Sanssouci takes you on an expedition to Scandinavia in 2013.

Välkommen, velkommen till Potsdam Sanssouci!
Some highlights of Potsdam’s Music Festival 2013

>>> Friday, 7. June 2013 | 20.00 h | Church of Peace Sanssouci
**Opening Concert: Looking North**
A musical trip to Scandinavia with Trondheim Solistene

>>> Saturday, 8. June 2013 | 22.00 h | Terraces Orangery Sanssouci, Mulberry Avenue
**Northern Lights over Sanssouci**
Highlights of Norwegian Romanticism – with fireworks

>>> Sunday, 9. June 2013 | 11.00 h | In, through and around Potsdam
**Bicycle Concert: Nordic Biking**
Your Nordic journey in a day featuring 22 concerts, readings, performances, guided tours and viewings in 16 venues in and around Potsdam. Well-suited for families!

>>> Friday, 14. June 2013 | 20.00 h | Nikolaisaal Potsdam
**Concert: Anne Sofie von Otter, Bengt Forsberg and Pekka Kuusisto**
The Swedish star soprano sings Nordic pieces by Grieg et al.

>>> Saturday 15. June 2013 | 19.00 h | Church of Peace Sanssouci
**Concert: Concerto Copenhagen**
The top Danish baroque orchestra plays music of the Scandinavian royal courts.

>>> Saturday, 15. June 2013 | 20.30 h | New Garden
**Folk in the garden**
Nordic Folk at its best in the summery lit New Garden.

>>> Saturday, 22. June 2013 | 14.00 h & 16.00 h | Science Park Albert Einstein
**Tracing the nobel prize winners Einstein and Bohr**
A ScienceConcertCourse for the whole family
Including lecture, experiments & scenic concert in the Great Refractor

>>> Friday, 21. June 2013 | 22.00 h |
Park Sanssouci: Mulberry Avenue, Nordic Garden, Grotto Orangery
**OpenAir: the troll night!**
Celebrate midsummer in Sanssouci with trolls, elves and invisible music.

>>> Sunday, 23. June 2013 | 21.00 h | Court of Honour Sanssouci Palace
**OpenAir: Scandinavian Last Night**
Romantic midsummer night’s dreams, inspiring speeches and striking fireworks – the closing concert.
Strange? Two German composers invent the Scandinavian opera. The opera productions of the Music Festival Potsdam Sanssouci 2013

Peter’s Wedding (Peters Bryllup): the first Danish folk opera
Since he was Prince Henry’s Hofkapellmeister (court conductor) in Rheinsberg, Johann Abraham Peter Schulz was a highly esteemed person in Prussia’s musical scene. Having been appointed royal Kapellmeister (conductor) he moved to Copenhagen in 1787. His inspiring work and his achievements in terms of musically educating the people cannot be valued highly enough. As a »song man of the people« he wanted to speak to the people with an art that takes the art out of art. With his musical comedy »Peters Bryllup« (Peter’s Wedding) he succeeded to the extent that the Danes fully adopted his tunes as their own and the term »national« Danish music was used for the very first time. Thomas Thaarup’s scenes depicting the lives of simple farmers and seamen offer slices of realism despite the idyllic setting. Topics such as the trade in slaves and the abolishment of serfdom were quite explosive.

At Palace Theatre Sanssouci L’ARTE DEL MONDO return the delightful piece to the stage for the first time ever as part of their »Opera from the world’s archives« season which was initiated by Bayer Kultur.

Proserpin: a Swedish abduction to the underworld
It was a Swedish fellow student at the university of Göttingen who suggested to would-be composer Joseph Martin Kraus trying his luck at Gustav III’s court in Stockholm. In 1772 Gustav founded the royal opera to raise his nation’s cultural prestige and to further the development of its own national culture. Soon the repertoire, which the king managed himself, also contained operas in Swedish. He designed libretti and was always on the lookout for new talents. All in all, there were striking similarities between him and his mother’s brother: famous Uncle Frederic II.

Inspired by ancient mythology, the one act piece »Proserpin«, which received a preview performance in 1781 at Uriksdal Palace, launched composer Kraus’ distinguished career as royal Swedish conductor at the tender age of 25. His score which is rich in both colours and events he largely leaves the traditional number opera structure and finds his very individual compositional solutions. This is the work of one of the period’s most original and most innovative opera creators. Haydn called him a genius. That is a word he only used for one other man: Mozart.
7–23 June 2013

SCANDINAVIA
Musikfestspiele POTSDAM SANS SOUCI

Peter’s Wedding
Friday 7th June, 17.00 h (Premiere)
Saturday 8th June, 17.00 h

Musical comedy in two acts by Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747–1799)
Following a libretto by Thomas Thaarup

Peter, a sea captain Tobias Westman, tenor
Grethe, his bride Hannah Husahr, soprano
Anna, her sister Eva-Lotta Ohlsson, soprano
Halvor, her husband Johan Rydh, baritone
Choir soloists in numerous other parts

Vocal ensemble, choir & orchestra l’ARTE DEL MONDO
Musical director: Werner Ehrhardt
Director: Isabel Ostermann
Dialogues in German, translated by Peter Urban-Halle

Coproduction with l’ARTE DEL MONDO and Bayer Kultur, supported by the Capital City Potsdam, the State of Brandenburg, the Artfoundation NRW and the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in cooperation with Copenhagen Opera Festival.

Proserpin
Wednesday 19th June, 19.30 h (Premiere)
Thursday 20th June, 19.30 h
Saturday 22nd June, 19.30 h
Sunday 23rd June, 16.00 h

Opera in one act by Joseph Martin Kraus (1756–1792)
Libretto by Johan Henrik Kellgren, based on a sketch by Gustav III of Sweden

Proserpin Elisabeth Meyer, soprano
Ceres Erika Roos, soprano
Cyane Isa Katharina Gericke, soprano
Atis David Danholt, tenor
Pluto Lars Arvidson, baritone
Jupiter Ludvig Lindström, baritone

Choir: Ensemble Syd
BAROKKSOLISTENE
Musical direction and harpsichord: Olof Boman
Directed by: Elisabeth Linton
Designed by: Herbert Muraurer
Sung in Swedish with German supertitles

Informations and tickets: Tel +49 (0)331 28 888 28 | www.musikfestspiele-potsdam.de
### ARTISTS (selection)

**Norway**
- Trondheim Solistene
- Øyvind Gimse
- Frode Haltli
- Marianne Thorsen
- Anima (Benedicte Maurseth, Nils Økland & Knut Hamre)
- Henning Krøggerud
- Berit Opheim
- Gro Siri Øgøyd Johansen
- Skaidi (Inga Juuso & Steinar Raknes)
- Isa Katharina Gericke
- Gjermund Larsen Trio
- Korall Koral (Maja Ratkje, Christina Lindgren, Hanne Dieserud, Silje Aker Johnsen)
- Barokksolistene mit Eike Bjarte

**Sweden**
- Lisa Rydberg / Gunnar Idenstam /
- Lisa Eriksson Långbacka
- Anne Sofie von Otter & Bengt Forsberg
- Romeo & Julia Kören
- Olof Boman
- Esbjörn Hazelius
- Johan Hedin
- Cia Rinne
- Marika Lagerkranz
- Nordic by nature (Stockholm/Berlin)
- Dahlkvist Quartet
- Ensemble Syd

**Denmark & Faroe Islands**
- Concerto Copenhagen
- Lars Ulrik Mortensen
- Elisabeth Linton
- Kvonn & Yggdrasil feat. Kristian Blak
- Theatre of Voices
- Jesper Juul
- Kasper Thaarup

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**Belgium**: Scherzi Musicali, Philippe Pierlot, Oxalys, Hathor Consort, The Spiral Consort

**Germany**: Christine Schornsheim, Deutsches Filmorchester Babelsberg, Werner Ehrhardt, L’Arte del Mondo, Friedemann Werzlau, Sigrid Grabner, Simone Solga, Jennipher Antoni, Klaus Büstrin, Simone Kabst, Kammerakademie Potsdam mit Antonello Manacorda, Herbert Muraurer, Isabel Ostermann, Karin Pagmar, Leipziger Streichquartett

**Finland**: Pekka Kuusisto

**The Netherlands**: Martien Groeneveld, The floating diva, Teatro Pavana

**Italy**: La Chimera, La Venexiana

**Austria**: Romina Lischka, Elisabeth Seitz

**Switzerland**: Kammerorchester Basel, Ensemble Pratum Musicum

**UK**: Elizabeth Kenny

**USA**: Jacob Heringman, Seth Josel
COMPOSERS (selection)

Norway
Edvard Grieg
Johan Daniel Berlin
Ole Bull
Johan Halvorsen
Benedicte Maurseth (First German Production [FGP] Sissel-Hallingen et.al.)
Nils Økland (FGP 5736)
Maja Solveig Kjelstrup Ratkje (FGP Korall Koral)

Sweden
Johan Helmich Roman
Carl Michael Bellman
Johan Joachim Agrell
Franz Adolf Berwald
Tobias Hume (Army Gustav II Adolf)
Joseph Martin Kraus (Court Gustav III)
Andrea Tarrodi (FGP String Quartet No. 2)

Denmark
Mogen Pedersøn (Court Christian IV)
John Dowland (Court Christian IV)
Heinrich Schütz (Kopenhagen Christian IV)
Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (Rheinsberg-Berlin-Copenhagen)
Johann Adolf Scheibe (German-Danish) (Court Christian VI)
Dietrich Buxtehude
Niels W. Gade
Carl Nielsen
Bent Sørensen (FGP It is Pain Flowing Slowly on a White Wall)
Christoph Ernst Friedrich Weyse

Faroe Islands
Kristian Blak (first performance Dímun)
Ticket sales from 11th January 2013
Informations and tickets: Tel +49 (0)331 288 88 28
www.musikfestspiele-potsdam.de

Press | Promotion:
maren borchers · for artists
Tel: +49 (331) 28 888 21
maren.borchers@forartists.de

Media Contact
Dr. Jelle Dierickx
Artistic Coordinator | Dramaturg
Tel: +49 (331) 28 888 17
jelle@musikfestspiele-potsdam.de

We are very grateful to all our supporters and cooperation partners.
This program would not have been possible without them.

Overall organization
Music Festival Sanssouci and Nikolaiaal Potsdam gGmbH
A company of the Capital City of Potsdam.

Supported by das Ministerium für Wissenschaft,
Forschung und Kultur des Landes Brandenburg

Kindly supported by
Sächsisches Staatsweingut Schloss Wackerbarth GmbH
Stadtwerke Potsdam – Energie und Wasser Potsdam GmbH
TMB – Tourismus Marketing Brandenburg GmbH
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Embassy of Sweden Berlin
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Radeberger Gruppe KG

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Förderverein der Musikfestspiele
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