

7–23 June 2013

SCANDINAVIA

Musikfestspiele POTSDAM SANSSOUCI



PRESS RELEASE MUSIC FESTIVAL POTSDAM SANSSOUCI 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-air performances 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 Kongsnaes at Jungfernssee 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 Korall*, 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 overtone 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!

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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

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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.

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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

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ARTISTS (selection)

Norway

Trondheim Solistene
Øyvind Gimse
Frode Haltli
Marianne Thorsen
Anima (Benedicte Maurseth, Nils Økland & Knut Hamre)
Henning Kraggerud
Berit Opheim
Gro Siri Ognøy Johansen
Skaídi (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

and:

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 Murauder, 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

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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*)

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Ticket sales from 11th January 2013

Informations and tickets: Tel +49 (0)331 288 88 28

www.musikfestspiele-potsdam.de

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