



verbierfestival

MEDIA RELEASE

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A CONCERT FOR PEACE: THE VERBIER FESTIVAL RE-IMAGINES ITS OPENING NIGHT IN THE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AND INCLUSION

GIANANDREA NOSEDA REPLACES VALERY GERGIEV FOR THREE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES, INCLUDING THE FESTIVAL'S OPENING CONCERT WHICH CELEBRATES ARTISTS AND MUSIC OF UKRAINE AND RUSSIA.

March 15, 2022 – VERBIER (Switzerland) – In a call for peace, solidarity, and inclusion of musicians of all nations, the Verbier Festival today announced a re-imagined programme for its opening night on July 15. Italian conductor Gianandrea Noseda conducts the Verbier Festival Orchestra (VFO) in a programme that features Shostakovich's *Fourth Symphony*—a work fittingly composed during a repressive political atmosphere—preceded by Rodion Shchedrin's *Second Piano Concerto*. At the piano will be Ukrainian pianist Anna Fedorova, alumna of the Verbier Festival Academy (2012 and 2017). Rodion Shchedrin, who celebrates his 90th birthday in 2022, is one of Russia's pre-eminent composers and a regular composer and pianist of the Festival since 1997. His music is programmed on three Festival concerts this summer with the VFO.

The Verbier Festival previously announced its separation from all artists publicly aligned with the Russian government's position on the invasion of Ukraine, including Valery Gergiev as Music Director of the Verbier Festival Orchestra.

“While we condemn both the actions of the Russian government and those who support them, we will not turn our backs on Russian musicians nor the great tradition of Russian music,” comments Martin T:son Engstroem, Founder & Director of the Verbier Festival. “Our Festival was built on the value of inclusion. It's in our DNA to bring people together during this difficult time.”

Having been part of the Verbier Festival's community of artists since 2006, Gianandrea Noseda was already programmed to conduct Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* and will now extend his time at the Festival to include the three first VFO performances originally scheduled with Valery Gergiev. Noseda has agreed to take over the programmes as they had originally been announced; with pianist Mikhail Pletnev as soloist on July 17, and a rescheduled performance by Yefim Bronfman on July 19. Programme details follow.

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FRIDAY 15 JULY / OPENING CONCERT

19:00 Salle des Combins
Rodion Shchedrin – Piano Concerto No. 2
Dmitri Shostakovich – Symphony No. 4

Verbier Festival Orchestra

Gianandrea Noseda conductor

Anna Fedorova piano

SUNDAY 17 JULY

19:00 Salle des Combins
Rodion Shchedrin – Heiligenstadt Testament
Ludwig van Beethoven – Piano Concerto No. 3
Dmitri Shostakovich – Symphony No. 15

Verbier Festival Orchestra

Gianandrea Noseda conductor

Mikhail Pletnev piano

TUESDAY 19 JULY

19:00 Salle des Combins
Rodion Shchedrin – Dialogues with Shostakovich
Béla Bartók – Piano Concerto No. 2
Dmitri Shostakovich – Symphony No. 1

Verbier Festival Orchestra

Gianandrea Noseda conductor

Yefim Bronfman piano

The **Verbier Festival** is a classical music festival that encourages sharing between great musicians and young aspiring artists from around the world. It is committed to excellence in music performance and education through its highly respected artistic programme, Academy and community engagement programmes. The next edition of the Verbier Festival, with Principal Sponsorship of Bank Julius Baer and SICPA, will place July 15 to 31, 2022 in Verbier (Switzerland).

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PHOTOS

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