



The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra Performs with Lisa Batiashvili and Daniel Barenboim at Berlin's Waldbühne

Sunday, August 19, 2018, starting at 7 pm | Tickets now on sale



“Not only do they send a signal of international understanding. Artistically, they also offer an unforgettable evening,” wrote the *Berliner Morgenpost* in an enthusiastic review of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra’s concert at the Waldbühne in 2016. Since the orchestra’s beginnings in Weimar in 1999 as a workshop for musicians from the Middle East, it has rapidly developed into a world-class ensemble, demonstrating its qualities everywhere from Carnegie Hall to the Elbphilharmonie, from the Lucerne Festival

to the Salzburg Festival. On August 19, 2018, it returns for its ninth performance at Berlin’s Waldbühne.

On this occasion, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra will be joined by a soloist who has enjoyed a musical partnership with Daniel Barenboim for many years: the violinist Lisa Batiashvili. The virtuoso from Georgia has a long-standing working relationship with the Staatskapelle Berlin and Daniel Barenboim, reflected in acclaimed concert performances and CD recordings. Batiashvili performs with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra for the first time in Berlin on August 19. The Violin Concerto by Johannes Brahms (1877/78) is one of the great concertos of the violin repertoire, demanding an intimate dialogue between soloist and orchestra and challenging both sides equally. Thus, this first encounter between West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and Lisa Batiashvili promises an intriguing, compelling musical collaboration.

The Brahms Concerto is complemented by two works by Claude Debussy. Two of the most famous compositions by the French composer, who died 100 years ago, will be heard at the Waldbühne, and they are two of his most atmospheric as well: *Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune* rose to fame and notoriety when it was featured by the legendary Ballets Russes in Vaslav Nijinsky’s choreography of the same name. It is one of the central works of musical modernism. The three-movement symphonic poem *La Mer* is another cornerstone of music history. Debussy’s music captures nothing less than the character of the sea itself. The densely atmospheric score, which coaxes a wealth of colors from the orchestra, is a perfect fit for the summer atmosphere of an August night at Berlin’s Waldbühne.

Founded by Daniel Barenboim and Edward W. Said in Weimar in 1999, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra unites young artists from Israel, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Iran and other Middle Eastern countries and

supports transcultural dialogue through the power of music. It regularly performs at the world's most important festivals and has catapulted itself into the first rank of international orchestras since its founding in 1999.

In March 2016 the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, named the orchestra a "United Nations Global Advocate for Cultural Understanding" – praising the orchestra's work as a "testimony to the power of music to break down barriers and build bridges between communities." The exceptional manner in which the orchestral musicians communicate in the spirit of music is also documented by the orchestra's recordings with Daniel Barenboim on the conductor's digital label "Peral Music" and on Deutsche Grammophon/Decca.

Once again, the only concert in Germany during the 2018 summer tour of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra takes place at the Waldbühne in Berlin – and one year before the 20th birthday of the orchestra in 2019, it is more deeply rooted in the city than ever, since the Barenboim-Said Akademie was opened in the same spirit as the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. Guided by the motto "Education through Music", it takes the idea of the Divan even further, enabling young musicians from the Middle East to attain a comprehensive music education through scholarships. An essential element of the Akademie is the Pierre Boulez Saal, inaugurated in Berlin in March 2017.

The Waldbühne Concert of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra 2018

Cast:

Lisa Batiashvili, Violin

Daniel Barenboim, Conductor

West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

Program:

Johannes Brahms: Violin Concerto in D major Op. 77

Claude Debussy: *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*

Claude Debussy: *La mer*

Sunday, August 19, 2018 – Concert at 7 pm, admission starting at 5 pm

Waldbühne Berlin, Am Glockenturm, 14053 Berlin, Germany

Tickets can be purchased by calling 030 / 479 974 77, via www.eventim.de and via regular ticket sales points

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