**BODRUM MUSIC FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY!**

**The Bodrum Music Festival will be held between the 22nd and 25th of August this year. The festival will be hosting stars of the music world once again on its 15th anniversary. At this four-day, festival guest artists both from around the world and from Turkey will present music lovers with pleasant moments.**

Founded by Doğuş Group in 2005, the Bodrum Music Festival has since grown to be an event contributing immensely in Bodrum becoming an art destination. The festival has brought art enthusiasts together with stars who have performed at the leading music centres of the world as well as musicians who are the pride of Turkey, all while lending generous support to young talents at the beginning of their careers.

The Bodrum Music Festival has earned considerable following in 15 years and has shaped the cultural structure of Bodrum with its meticulously prepared programme. Today, the Bodrum Music Festival is widely known as an essential event that masterfully blends different branches of art and devotedly presents it to the residents of Bodrum and those who love Bodrum.

At the 15th year of the festival, Bilkent Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Nil Venditti, the remarkable conductor who is rapidly rising in her career, will accompany Fazıl Say for the opening concert of the festival to be held between 22-25 August. One of the highlights of the festival will be the concert where Bilkent Symphony Orchestra under İbrahim Yazıcı will accompany the violinist Pablo Ferrández in the Turkey premiere of Say’s “Hope” Symphony.

In the span of four days, the Bodrum Music Festival will be hosting musicians and artists such as Fazıl Say, Pablo Ferrández, Ksenija Sidorova, Karsu, Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev, Vassilis Varvaresos, Sara Ferrández, Umut Sağlam, Faruk Kalaycı, Francesco Tristano, Koray Futacı, Jess Gillam, Zeynep Özsuca and Mert Fırat as well as ensembles including the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, the Olten Philharmonic Orchestra and Sväng Harmonica Quartet from Finland, which is known for its extraordinary tango renditions.

The festival will continue to organise Sunrise Concerts as it has done every year, to support young talents on the first steps of their professional careers. The young members of the Doğuş Children’s Symphony Orchestra will be sharing their enthusiasm with us once again during their concert full of hope that will be performed at the first lights of day.

As for the Sunset Concerts, internationally acclaimed artists will be making valuable collaborations. At the Zai Bodrum venue of this concert series, world-famous accordion virtuoso Ksenija Sidorova and actor Mert Fırat will come together for a memorable interdisciplinary project on profoundly history-influencing Russian literature.

At the Evening Concerts, it will be ‘raining stars’, as usual. Following the concert the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra under Nil Venditti accompanies Fazıl Say, the orchestra under İbrahim Yazıcı will perform the Turkish premiere of Say’s “HOPE” Symphony. Also at the Evening Concerts, a programme dedicated to tango awaits you. The famous Finnish harmonica quartet Sväng together with Ksenija Sidorova and Olten Philharmonic, will deliver a memorable evening to music lovers. This year, yet another surprise guest of the Evening Concerts is one of the world-famous figures of the jazz scenes, Karsu. The meeting of Karsu, recipient of Holland’s prestigious Edison Jazz Award, and the Olten Philharmonic will without a doubt, be one of the highlights of the festival...

For those who wish to conclude their day with music, the Bodrum Music Festival provides an extraordinary atmosphere with Night Concerts in which collaborations between today’s prolific and versatile artists await you: Francesco Tristano who reproduces the sound of different eras, tendencies and styles in an original way will take the stage with a repertoire ranging from classical to electronic music. The second Night Concert is titled “Rivayet Radyosu” (Rumor Radio). The short stories of Sabahattin Ali, which have had a profound influence over Turkish literature, come to life once again with music from the composer and master saxophonist Korhan Futacı, and the voice of actor Mert Fırat. At the last of the Night Concerts, one of the most mentioned musicians of her generation saxophonist Jess Gillam and pianist Zeynep Özsuca meet.

The Bodrum Music Festival is a member of the European Festivals Association and since its foundation has been donating all ticket revenues to charitable foundations and societies.

The festival which will be with you 24/7 for four days, expands to all of Bodrum with Sunrise Concerts at the Şevket Sabancı Park, Sunset Concerts at D-Marin Turgutreis Amphitheatre and Zai Bodrum, Evening Concerts at D-Marin Turgutreis, Night Concerts at The Marmara Bodrum and guided tours at the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus.

**Opening Concert: Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Nil Venditti and Fazıl Say**

The Bodrum Music Festival opens at D-Marin Turgutreis on August 22, Thursday at 20.30 with a concert where Bilkent Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Nil Venditti accompanies Fazıl Say performing Piano Concerto No. 3 by Beethoven. Fazıl Say is among the distinguished artists of Warner Classics and has become a world-class star both as a pianist and as a composer... Fazıl Say, who has contributed significantly to the development of the festival, will also be receiving the Festival’s Honorary Award this year. Since its founding as an original art project at Bilkent University, Bilkent Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has participated in our art lives with over 50 events each year and has become a distinguished ensemble with its concerts, television and radio recordings, and over 40 released albums. For the opening concert, Nil Venditti will be conducting BSO which was declared “Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF in Turkey” in 2009. Venditti who has rapidly risen in fame after winning the first prize at the Premio Claudio Abbado Competition for Young Musicians in 2015, was honoured at the Bucarest Jeunesses Musicales with the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017. The young conductor will be directing Camerata Salzburg at the concert she will perform with Fazıl Say next season. The Opening Concert where Fazıl Say’s immense experience comes together with the dynamism of Bilkent Symphony Orchestra under Venditti will announce the beginning of the festival.

**A premiere: Fazıl Say, Symphony No.4, “Hope”**

On August 23, Friday at 20.30 at D-Marin Turgutreis, this time the successful conductor İbrahim Yazıcı will be directing Bilkent Symphony Orchestra. Yazıcı has been honoured with the “Cavaliere dell’Ordine della Stella d’Italia” in Italy in 2005 and was selected the “Conductor of the Year” at the Donizetti Classical Music Awards organised by *Andante* in 2012. In this concert, Bilkent Symphony Orchestra will accompany the Spanish cellist Pablo Ferrández for one of the most important works of the cello repertory, Cello Concerto by Dvořák. Declared the “Young Artist of the Year” at ICMA 2016, Ferrández is a musician that enchants his audience with his emotional intensity and stage presence. Praised by critics as “one of the greatest violinists”, Ferrández is the winner of some of the most prestigious competitions of the world including the 15th International Tchaikovsky Competition and the 5th Paulo International Cello Competition. Fazıl Say’s 4th symphony “Hope” will be performed for the first time in Turkey at this concert. A work merged with the dreams of a beautiful world, Umut Symphony will be radiating at the Bodrum Music Festival with its optimistic melodies that reflect hope for a brighter future.

**An evening of tango and a dreamlike concert...**

The Latvian musician Ksenija Sidorova, who has been rightfully dubbed “the princess of the accordion” for her virtuosity and the depth she brings to her instrument, has recently been the talk of the classical music world for her new interpretation. Sidorova comes together with the Olten Philharmonic and Finnish ensemble Sväng Harmonica Quartet on August 24, Saturday 20.30 at D-Marin Turgutreis for a spectacular and unforgettable tango night featuring works from Piazzolla’s Libertango and Oblivion. At the last Evening Concert, İzmir’s successful ensemble the Olten Philharmonic will come together with jazz musician and pianist Karsu. Karsu has performed at prestigious halls and events such as the Carnegie Hall and North Sea Jazz Festival. She is now visiting Bodrum Music Festival for the first time and prepares to deliver a dreamlike concert performance of her arrangements renewed in classical style, including her compositions.

**A Busy Festival with Sunrise, Sunset and Night Concerts**

**Sunrise Concerts**

At the Sunrise Concerts, Bodrum Music Festival will be hosting young talents supported by Doğuş Children’s Symphony Orchestra. The ensemble is one of the most significant indicators of Doğuş Group’s support for culture and arts and has performed successfully at numerous concerts. At the Sunrise Concerts to be held every morning at 07.00 at Şevket Sabancı Park between August 23rd and 25th, successful young musicians will be taking their first steps into their professional concert careers with you as the esteemed audience.

**Sunset Concerts**

For its 15th year, the Bodrum Music Festival brings Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev, Vassilis Varvaresos, Sara Ferrández, Umut Sağlam ve Faruk Kalaycı together with music lovers at the Sunset Concerts. Artists will salute the sunset every day between August 23rd and 25th at 19.00 at D-Marin Turgutreis Amphitheatre with music born from warm and productive collaborations. One of the goals of the festival is to bring our local musicians who have begun to be noticed abroad with foreign artists on the same stage. At the first of these concerts where Bodrum Music Festival’s audience will be witnessing first-time collaborations, violinist Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev meets pianist Vassilis Varvaresos. Ganiyev is an extraordinarily talented musician that has won numerous prestigious awards. Varvaresos is a pianist who has won the admiration of critics and audiences around the world for his virtuosity... Music lovers who have listened to Pablo Ferrández a day before at the Evening Concerts will now witness the extraordinary power of the harmony he creates on the stage with his violist sister Sara Ferrández. For another one of the Sunset Concerts, cellist Umut Sağlam and pianist Faruk Kalaycı will be collaborating. Sağlam has most recently won first place at the Gaetano Zinetti Music Competition and has been noted for the chamber music concerts he performed with numerous artists on the international stage. Our up-and-coming, successful pianist Faruk Kalaycı who currently continues his studies at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory will be with you at the Sunset Concerts. The last concert of the series will be held at Zai Bodrum; at this concert accordionist Sidorova will share the stage with actor Mert Fırat to bring the extraordinary ambience of Russian literature to Bodrum...

**Night Concerts: Bodrum nights are even more colourful with the festival…**

Preceding the great interest in our Night Concerts held for the first time last year and gathering inspiration from this attention, for the 15th year of the festival our Night Concerts are even more colourful. On the first concert of this series to be held at The Marmara Bodrum on August 23 at 23.00, pianist, composer, techno and jazz musician Francesco Tristano will appear on stage. The artist has become an important reference point for his focus on the creative intersection between classical and techno music, and for the original way he presents this intersection to the audience by blending it in his universe. Tristano has performed with the most prestigious ensembles of the world and received flying colours from critics for his album recordings. He brings a breath of fresh air to the festival with his versatile artist identity. The second of the Night Concerts is on August 24. Music explorer Korhan Futacı will brighten up the night where Mert Fırat recites the short stories of Sabahattin Ali. On August 25, the last of the Night Concerts brings together the shining star of saxophone, Jess Gillam who has won great admiration for his breath-taking performance at the closing of BBC Proms last year and our flourishing pianist Zeynep Özsuca. Gillam is an artist who is known for the concerts he has performed at the leading stages of the world and for reaching audiences through his radio programme “The Classical Life” produced on BBC. Pianist Zeynep Özsuca, who has worked with world-famous conductors including Gustavo Dudamel, Simon Halsey and Sir Simon Rattle, and extraordinary singers such as Magdalena Kožená ve Rolando Villazón, will be closing the festival together with Jess Gillam.

 **“A Bodrum Tale” Tour with Saffet Emre Tonguç**

An event that has drawn attention from the first time it was organised, “A Bodrum Tale with Saffet Emre Tonguç” continues this year. On August 23rd and 24th at 18:00 A Bodrum Tale will be with you with award-winning travel writer Saffet Emre Tonguç’s narration at the excavation site of one of UNESCO’s Seven Wonders of the World, Bodrum Halicarnassus Mausoleum.

**Festival Tickets**

Tickets revenues for all events at the Bodrum Music Festival are donated to social foundations will be on sale at “Biletix” from June 17.

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