

## RIGA JURMALA MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES DOCUMENTARY HONOURING THE GREAT LATVIAN CONDUCTOR MARISS JANSONS

March 11, 2021

**'Mariss Jansons: A Tale of Four Orchestras', a film by Peter Maniura, tells the Latvian maestro's story through the eyes of the four leading orchestras which he led.**

The Riga Jurmala Music Festival today announced the commissioning of a documentary dedicated to honouring legendary Latvian conductor Mariss Jansons (1943-2019), due for broadcast in early 2022. 'Mariss Jansons: A Tale of Four Orchestras' will be directed and conceived by Peter Maniura, an award-winning television producer and director with more than twenty-five years' experience in music and arts broadcasting at the BBC, the European Broadcasting Union and independently.

For the first time, Jansons' story will be told through the eyes of the musicians from the four ensembles for which Jansons was either Music Director or Chief Conductor: the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Concertgebouworkest and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. Paying tribute to the legacy of a conductor that marked each of them, the orchestras will contribute specially filmed performances.

In addition to archival material featuring performances by and interviews with Jansons, new interviews with the orchestra musicians and others will provide insight into why Jansons was so profoundly appreciated both on and off the conducting podium. Latvian Television and the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) have already provided support by filming and access to their rich archives; the list of partners will expand during production.

**Peter Maniura, Director of 'Mariss Jansons: A Tale of Four Orchestras', said:**

*"Mariss Jansons was a great conductor and this new film will reveal fresh insights into the music-making and the man by delving into his relationships with the four great orchestras that were most important in his life, in four very different cities: Oslo, Pittsburgh, Amsterdam and Munich. His extended family - the orchestral musicians who played for him and the conductors who learnt from him - will furnish unique and personal perspectives on his musical genius and contribute new tribute performances to celebrate his art and legacy."*

**Zane Čulkstēna, CEO of the Riga Jurmala Music Festival, said:**

*"The Riga Jurmala Music Festival is thrilled to commission this new documentary dedicated to the great Latvian conductor Mariss Jansons. Maestro Jansons was universally revered as one of the greatest of all conductors and a magical human being who transformed the orchestras he worked with and touched the lives of countless music lovers around the world. We are delighted that Peter Maniura is directing and we are grateful to the four orchestras who have so willingly expressed their support and involvement in this project."*

A short video previewing the documentary can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/AlzXtcsCbSo>

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## **Editor's Notes**

### **Peter Maniura**

Peter is an award-winning freelance tv producer and director with more than 25 years' experience in music and arts broadcasting at the BBC, the EBU and independently. He strives to bring the widest possible audience to the arts, as a director and producer of documentary and live event programmes, as well as through digital media. Many of his programmes have won major awards, including a Bafta and an International Emmy for 'Holocaust: a music memorial film from Auschwitz', which he produced for BBC2. Recent productions include live-streams of the operas *The Turn of the Screw* and *Fidelio* for Opera North and concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra. Peter is also Director of the IMZ Academy.

### **The Riga Jurmala Music Festival**

The Riga Jurmala Music Festival held its first season in summer 2019. After a successful first year, the festival was included in *The Telegraph's* top 10 summer festivals, as well as having gained the prestigious EFFE Label from the European Festivals Association.

During the festival's summer, the world's leading symphony orchestras and conductors visit Riga and Jurmala to allow audiences to enjoy symphonic, chamber and solo concerts, and to listen to star classical musicians and emerging talents, with 20 concerts offered over a four-week period.

In 2021, the festival's weekends will be centred around international ensembles including the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra with John Eliot Gardiner, the Concertgebouworkest with conductor Daniel Harding, the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra with Yuri Temirkanov and the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra with conductor Andris Nelsons coming for a rare appearance outside of Bayreuth.

The festival's performances will also feature world-renowned soloists such as pianists Yuja Wang, Víkingur Ólafsson, András Schiff, Leif Ove Andsnes, Yefim Bronfman and Arcadi Volodos, as well as cellist Truls Mørk, violinist Renaud Capuçon and pianist Maria João Pires. The Riga Jurmala Music Festival will also present outstanding singers such as soprano Renée Fleming, bass-baritone Bryn Terfel and baritone Matthias Goerne.

For more information on the Festival please visit: [www.riga-jurmala.com](http://www.riga-jurmala.com)