



Tsinandali Festival

TSINANDALI FESTIVAL, A MAJOR NEW 15 DAY INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED IN THE HEART OF GEORGIA'S WINE COUNTRY

8-22 September 2019

- **Festival launches on 8 September with a performance of Mahler's Second Symphony with the Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra conducted by Festival Music Director Gianandrea Noseda**
- **Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra formed, under Noseda, to unite young musicians from surrounding region**
 - **Martin Engstroem & Avi Shoshani joint Founders & Artistic Directors**
 - **Soloists include Lisa Batiashvili, Renaud Capuçon, Thomas Hampson, Mischa Maisky, Andrés Schiff & Yuja Wang**
- **Gianandrea Noseda & Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra joined by conductors Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Lahav Shani & Omer Meir Wellber**
- **Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra joined by conductors Gábor Takács-Nagy, Andrés Schiff and Pinchas Zukerman, Tsinandali Festival Academy Musicians, Georgian National Ballet Sukhishvili & Georgian State Academic Ensemble Rustavi**

The Tsinandali Festival, a Georgian non-profit foundation, in collaboration with the Georgian government and generous private donors, has established a new international music festival in the historic Tsinandali Estate.

The annual Festival will present some of the greatest musicians and the specially formed Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra which brings together over 80 young musicians from the surrounding region. This Youth Orchestra, supported by all the governments of Georgia's neighbours and beyond, will ensure that the work of the Tsinandali Festival extends beyond the historic estate.

The Tsinandali Festival is the latest stage in the Silk Road Group's long-term development plan for the Tsinandali Estate that has included the restoration of Prince Alexander Chavchavadze's manor house (in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute). With its unique mix of Georgian and European architectural styles from 1812 it has become Georgia's most visited attraction with 120,000 visitors annually.

Two new venues have been built on the estate to house the Festival performances - an open amphitheatre with a retractable roof seating 1,200 people and the Chamber Concert Hall which seats 600 people.

The halls have been designed by an international group of designers, including German industrial designer Ingo Maurer and French architect Xavier Fabre, who has previously worked on acoustics of the Philharmonie de Paris and the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg. The frescoes adorning the site belong to the beloved Georgian artist Tamara Kvesitadze.

The inaugural Tsinandali Festival will open on Sunday 8 September with a performance of Mahler's monumental Second Symphony. Noseda will conduct the Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra and soloists Ying Fang and Ketevan Kemoklidze.

Over the following 14 days a host of international musicians will perform together in differing combinations as well as giving masterclasses. Soloists include: violinists Lisa Batiashvili, Renaud Capuçon & Pinchas Zukerman (who also conducts); pianists Nicholas Angelich, Sergei Babayan, Itamar Golan; Nino Gvetadze, Denis Kozhukhin, George Li, Jan Lisiecki, Fazil Say, András Schiff (who also conducts) & Yuja Wang; cellists Gautier Capuçon and Mischa Maisky; clarinetist Martin Fröst; baritone Thomas Hampson; Avi Avital on the mandolin and the conductors Gábor Takács-Nagy, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Omer Meir Wellber and Lahav Shani.

Gianandrea Noseda comments:

"I am delighted to be Music Director of the Tsinandali Festival, situated in one of the world's most beautiful landscapes. I'm particularly inspired by the creation of the Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra. This really convinced me that the Tsinandali Festival will be something special as through music we can try to develop a new society based on friendship and respect despite any differences in politics or religion because music has a unique language. When you sit with your partner at the music desk, you serve the music together."

Martin Engstroem and Avi Shoshani commented:

"We were instantly seduced by the magic of the Tsinandali Estate as soon as we first arrived there. For 26 years the Verbier Festival has provided great musicians with an idyllic setting to make music in circumstances and surroundings they cannot find anywhere else. Such a campus atmosphere where there's interaction between famous artists, students and the public is something we are keen to replicate in Tsinandali. To be given the chance to provide such opportunities to the young players of the Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra in particular is an opportunity we couldn't resist, and we are indebted to Maestro Noseda for joining us on this adventure and to George Ramishvili for making it all possible."

George Ramishvili, Chairman of the Silk Road Group & Chairman and Founder of the Tsinandali Festival commented:

"Like all Georgians, I take great pride in the resurrection of the Tsinandali Estate and the founding of the Tsinandali Festival which will continue to build on our country's history as a custodian of our shared ancient heritage. Georgia has for millennia hosted travellers along the Silk Road with our food and drink having been justly celebrated, not least for the invention of wine and viticulture 8,000 years ago. Since the Tsinandali Estate's founding in the 1690's it has played host to luminaries such as Dumas and Pushkin and as a home for technological innovations from Europe: bringing Georgia's first printing press, grand piano, English landscape garden and French bottling and barrelling techniques. That tradition lives on with the Tsinandali Festival."

For more information on the Festival please visit: www.tsinandalifestival.ge

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IMAGE ATTACHED: Gianandrea Noseda

Editor's Notes

Gianandrea Noseda

Gianandrea Noseda is one of the world's most sought-after conductors, equally recognized for his artistry in both the concert hall and the opera house. He was named Washington D.C.'s National Symphony Orchestra's seventh music director in 2016 beginning his tenure in the fall of 2017; his contract has been renewed until the 2024/25 season.

In addition to his positions with the National Symphony Orchestra and the Tsinandali Festival, Noseda also serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the Orquestra de Cadaqués, and Artistic Director of the Stresa Festival in Italy. In July 2018, the Zurich Opera House appointed him the next General Music Director beginning in the 2021–2022 season where the centrepiece of his tenure will be a new *Ring Cycle*.

Martin Engstroem

Founder and Executive Director of the Verbier Festival, Martin Engstroem has worked with every major musician of our time. In addition to founding and running the Verbier Festival, Engstroem has held senior roles as an artist manager, as a consultant or executive for Rolex, EMI France, the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, the Opéra National de Paris, Deutsche Grammophon and IMG Artists.

An in-demand jury member for numerous competitions he is also a member of several Boards, including the Béjart Ballet, Lausanne, the Macao Festival, the Tibor Varga Academy, Sion and the Glion Institut de Hautes Etudes. In April 2015, he received the Dmitri Shostakovich Prize, considered to be one of the most prestigious prizes in the field of Russian art. He is the first non-musician laureate of this Prize.

In 2018 he became Artistic Director both of the Tsinandali Festival in Georgia and of the Riga Jurmala Music Festival in Latvia.

Avi Shoshani

Secretary General of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, an organisation he joined in 1973 and which he has transformed into a major international orchestra. Shoshani has been responsible for all aspects of the Orchestra's artistic policy, international touring and securing close relationships with many of the world's greatest musicians. A passionate advocate of musical education he has initiated several education programmes in Israel.

As Co-Founder of the Verbier Festival and Academy, he served as Artistic Director for the Festival's first 10 years and continues to be an Artistic Consultant to the Festival.

George Ramishvili

George Ramishvili is Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Silknet and founder, shareholder and chairman of Silk Road Group, a diversified group with a portfolio of investments in transportation and logistics, telecommunication, banking, real estate, tourism and energy in the Caspian and Central Asian region with a focus on Georgia.

George, an entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in starting-up and successfully running new companies, was the President of the Georgian Ski Federation for several years and is still supporting development of winter sports in Georgia. George is also a member of the international boards of several artistic and cultural organizations, a chairman of the board of National Geographic Georgia (the Licensee of National Geographic in Georgia), a chairman of the Board of the Tsinandali Festival and a member of the International Board of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

8 September

19.00: Mahler Symphony No. 2 in C minor, *Resurrection*
Ying Fang, soprano
Ketevan Kemoklidze, mezzo-soprano
Tbilisi Z. Paliashvili Opera and Ballet Theatre Chorus
Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor

9 September

12.00: Haydn Piano Sonata in E flat major; Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 14; Chopin, 4 Mazurkas Op. 24; Liszt *Reminiscences de Don Juan*
George Li, piano

19.00: Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 & Symphony No. 2
Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
András Schiff, piano
Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor

10 September

12:00: Mendelssohn Piano Trio No. 1; Brahms Piano Trio No. 1
Renaud Capuçon, violin
Edgar Moreau, cello

Nicholas Angelich, piano

16:00: repertoire TBC
Katya Tsukanova, violin
Itamar Golan, piano

19:00: Georgian National Ballet Sukhishvili

11 September

12:00: Shostakovich Piano Trio No. 2; Tchaikovsky Piano Trio in A minor
Pinchas Zukerman, violin
Amanda Forsyth, cello
George Li, piano

19:00: Bach Keyboard Concerto in G minor, BWV 1058; Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor;
Haydn Symphony No. 88
Renaud Capuçon, violin
Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
András Schiff, piano/conductor

12 September

12:00: Chopin Nocturnes and Scherzo No. 1; Schumann 4 *Nachtstücke*; Ravel *Gaspard de la Nuit*;
Rachmaninoff *Cinq Morceaux de fantaisie*
Jan Lisiecki, piano

19:00: Beethoven Triple Concerto; Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique*
Anna Tchania, violin
Lizi Ramishvili, cello
Sandro Nebieridze, piano
Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor

13 September

12:00: Schumann *Dichterliebe*; Schubert Heine Songs
Thomas Hampson, baritone
Jan Lisiecki, piano

19:00: Beethoven Piano Sonatas Nos. 12 & 21; Schumann Piano Sonata No. 1 & Fantasy in C major
András Schiff, piano

14 September

12:00: Chopin Cello Sonata in G minor; Franck Cello Sonata in A major
Edgar Moreau, cello
Itamar Golan, piano

19:00: Tchaikovsky *Variations on a Rococo Theme*; Sibelius Violin Concerto in D minor; Mozart
Symphony No. 40
Lisa Batiashvili, violin
Gautier Capuçon, cello

Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor
Pinchas Zukerman, conductor

15 September

12:00: Chopin Waltz in A minor & Scherzo No. 2; Shostakovich Piano Trio No. 1; Mendelssohn Piano Trio No. 2

Lisa Batiashvili, violin
Gautier Capuçon, cello
Nino Gvetadze, piano

19:00: Enescu Romanian Rhapsody No. 1; Dvorak Cello Concerto in B minor; Sibelius Symphony No. 2
Mischa Maisky, cello

Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra
Jukka-Pekka Saraste, conductor

16 September

12:00: Chopin Piano Sonata No. 3; Medtner Piano Sonata No. 2; Rachmaninoff Piano Sonata No. 2
Yoav Levanon, piano

19:00: Chopin Polonaises; Valses; Mazurkas; Barcarolle in F-sharp minor; Impromptu in A-flat No. 1; Prelude in A-flat

Sergei Babayan, piano

17 September

12:00: Rachmaninoff *Melodie, Vocalise & Elégie*; Tchaikovsky 'October' from *The Seasons* & *Valse sentimentale*; Scriabin Etude in B flat minor & Romance; Shostakovich Cello Sonata in D minor

Mischa Maisky, cello
Lily Maisky, piano

19:00: Mozart arias from *Così fan tutte* & *Le nozze di Figaro* & Concerto for Two Pianos in E flat;
Schubert Symphony No. 5 in B flat

Thomas Hampson, baritone
Sergei Babayan, piano
Yoav Levanon, piano
Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor

18 September

12:00: Weber Grand Duo Concertant for clarinet and piano; Brahms Sonata for clarinet and piano in E flat & Brahms *Hungarian Dances* Nos. 1, 13 & 21

Martin Fröst, clarinet
Yuja Wang, piano

19:00: Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3; Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 1; Shostakovich Symphony No. 9

Lahav Shani, piano
Denis Kozhukhin, piano
Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra

Omer Meir Wellber, conductor

19 September

12:00: Say "Gezi Park 3" for string sextet, piano and mezzo-soprano; Songs for mezzo-soprano and piano & Piano Quintet

Senem Demircioğlu, mezzo-soprano

Fazil Say, piano

19:00: Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A major; Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1; Beethoven Symphony No. 1

Martin Fröst, clarinet

Yuja Wang, piano

Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra

Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor

20 September

12:00: Tsinandali Festival Academy Presents

19:00: Chopin Nocturnes; Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 8 & 23; Satie Six *Gnossiennes*; Debussy Preludes; Say own works

Fazil Say, piano

21 September

12:00: Mendelssohn *Lieder ohne Worte*; Grieg *Lyric Pieces*; Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue* (version for solo piano)

Denis Kozhukhin, piano

19:00: Georgian State Academic Ensemble Rustavi

22 September

12:00: Bach Adagio and Fugue from Sonata in G minor & Chaconne from the Violin Partita No. 2; Kuwahara Impvised Poem for Mandolin; Sauli Partita for Mandolin Solo in C; Sollima Prelude for Mandolin Solo; Bruce "Cymbeline" for Mandolin and String Quartet

Avi Avital, mandolin

19:00: Rachmaninoff Suite No. 2 for two pianos, Op. 17; Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 2 in F; Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D

Yuja Wang, piano

Pan Caucasian Youth Orchestra

Lahav Shani, piano/conductor

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