Conductor: Valery Gergiev  
Soloist: Janine Jansen

PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 22nd AND 23rd 2015

Johannes Brahms  
Violin Concerto in D major, op. 77………………………………………………... 40’

Anton Bruckner  
Symphony No. 4 in E-flat major, Romantic……………………………………... 68’

SEPTEMBER 26th 2015

Sergei Prokofiev  
Suite No. 1 from Romeo and Juliet, op. 64b……………………………………... 10’

Suite No. 2 from Romeo and Juliet, op. 64ter…………………………………... 10’

Richard Strauss  
Don Juan, Op. 20……………………………………………………………………………… 20’

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Symphony No. 6 in B minor, op. 74, Pathétique …………………………………… 45’

APRIL 1st AND 3rd 2016

Sergei Prokofiev  
Symphony No. 1 in D major, op. 25, Symphonie classique………………………… 15’

Symphony No. 7 in C sharp minor, op. 131……………………………………………… 30’

Anton Bruckner  
Symphony No. 3 in D minor, Wagner-Sinfonie……………………………………………… 60’

APRIL 4th AND 5th 2016

Karol Szymanowski  
Violin Concerto No. 1, op. 35……………………………………………………………... 25’

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
Symphonic Dances (Fantastic Dances), op. 45……………………………………………… 35’

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The Munich Philharmonic was founded in 1893, and since then, under the direction of renowned conductors, it has vastly enriched Munich’s musical life. Even in the orchestra’s earliest years, conductors like Hans Windeter and Felix Weingartner guaranteed the high performance level. Gustav Mahler conducted the orchestra in the world premières of his 4th and 8th Symphonies, and in November 1911, the world première of Mahler’s “Das Lied von der Erde” took place under Bruno Walter’s direction. Ferdinand Löwe led the first Bruckner concerts and established the orchestra’s Bruckner tradition, which was then gloriously continued by Siegmund von Hausegger and Oswald von Kabasta. Eugen Jochum opened the first concert after World War II with the overture to “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. In the autumn of 1945 the orchestra acquired the services of an outstanding conductor in the person of Hans Rosbaud, who additionally took up the cuedgets for new music. His successor, from 1949 to 1965 was Fritz Reigle, during whose administration the groundwork was laid for the Philharmonic’s successful youth work. During the Rudolf Kempe era (1967-76) the Philharmonic made its first tour to what was then the U.S.S.R. In 1979 Sergiu Celibidache conducted his first series of concerts with the Munich Philharmonic, and was then appointed General Music Director of the orchestra in June of the same year. The legendary Bruckner concerts made a major contribution to the orchestra’s international reputation. From September 1999 until July 2004 James Levine was the Chief Conductor of the Munich Philharmonic, which won the prize for the “Best Concert Program in the 2002/2003 Season” from the German Music Publishers’ Association in the spring of 2003. In January 2004, the Munich Philharmonic made Zubin Mehta the first “Conductor Laureate” in the orchestra’s history. In May of 2003, Christian Thielemann signed a contract as new General Music Director. A tour he led to Asia brought the orchestra to Japan, Korea and China in November of 2003. These totally successful performances were followed by a repeat tour to Japan for five concerts in May of 2008. January of 2009 marked the beginning of a series of concert performances of “Der Rosenkavalier” by Richard Strauss in collaboration with the Festival Theatre in Baden-Baden. Richard Strauss’s “Elektra” followed one year later, and in January 2011 the Munich Philharmonic presented the four symphonies by Johannes Brahms. The orchestra traveled with Conductor Laureate Zubin Mehta in September of 2010 to South America, where it received the plaudits of both press and public. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Munich world première, Christian Thielemann led two performances of Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 8 in October 2010. Lorin Maazel assumed the position of Chief Conductor of the Munich Philharmonic in 2012. In his two-year tenure Maazel expanded the orchestra’s repertoire and worked on flexible sounds. Since 2015/16 Valery Gergiev is the Music Director of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra.

For more than two decades Valery Gergiev has been the acclaimed director of the legendary Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg. Under his supervision it has risen to become one of the most renowned examples of Russian culture. Since 2007 Valery Gergiev has also served as principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and director of the World Orchestra for Peace which was founded by Sir Georg Solti in 1995. He is initiator and artistic director of the festivals “Stars of the White Nights” and “New Horizons” in St. Petersburg, the Moscow Easter Festival, the Gergiev Rotterdam Festivals, etc.

Valery Gergiev was born in Moscow. He studied conducting with Ilya Musin at the Leningrad Conservatory. As a student he was granted the award of the Herbert von Karajan Conducting Competition in Berlin. In 1978, at the age of 24, Gergiev became assistant conductor to Yuri Temirkanov at the Mariinsky Theater, where he made his debut with Prokofiev’s score for Tolstoy’s “War and Peace”. In 2003 he became the first Russian conductor since Tchaikovsky to direct the opening concert for the season at Carnegie Hall. Today he is a popular guest on all great concert stages. With the Mariinsky ensemble he presents highlights of the Russian ballet and opera repertoire, Wagner’s Ring Cycle as well as all symphonies of Shostakovich and Prokofiev. Together with the LSO he regularly performs at the Barbican, the Proms and the Edinburgh Festival. During the 2010/2011 season he conducted both ensembles in a symphonic cycle on the occasion of Mahler’s anniversary in New York. His career as conductor has been highlighted by numerous awards, such as the Grammy, the Polar Music Prize, the Herbert von Karajan Award and the Prize of the All-Union Conductors’ Competition in Moscow.

Since the 2015/16 season Valery Gergiev has held the position of principal conductor of the Munich Philharmonics. With Gergiev, a project was implemented that had been unprecedented in Munich: the performance of all 15 symphonies by Dmitri Shostakovich together with the Mariinsky orchestra in the season 2011/12. This type of cyclic cooperation was continued with works by Igor Stravinsky in the season 2013/14.