



News

from the Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra

WE HOPE that this reaches deeply to connect with the music lover in all of you, our Friends, and the Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra. We encourage you to submit your own thoughts and feedback on the BFO or Ivan Fischer's concerts around the world. We hope that your travel plans will coincide with some of them.

On behalf of the Friends of the BFO, we look forward to seeing you at one of the BFO concerts or Galas. Please help us to support the Budapest Festival Orchestra – a very special and talented group of musicians. Details on how you can contribute are on the back of this newsletter! We look forward to seeing more of you!



The Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra Gala January 26, 2011 Lincoln Center, Avery Fisher Hall

This is the third gala sponsored by the Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra, and this year the program is fantastic with Maestro Ivan Fischer conducting Stravinsky and Haydn.

The Dinner before the concert is being chaired this year by Daisy M. Soros and Cynthia M. Whitehead. Nicola Bulgari is the Honorary Chairman. Buy your tickets now! Send in the enclosed envelope today!

PROGRAM

Dinner 6:00 pm
Concert 8:00 pm

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Stravinsky: *Scherzo a la Russe*

Stravinsky: *Tango*

Haydn : *Cello Concerto in C Major*

Miklos Perenyi, cello

Haydn: *Symphony No. 92*

Stravinsky: *Suite from "The Firebird"*
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Single Sponsor ticket
\$1,000 each

Patron Table of ten
\$10,000

Single Patron ticket
\$1,500 each

Benefactor Table of ten
\$15,000

A Greeting From Ivan Fischer

MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE BFO

It is hard to believe that 27 years have passed since I brought into reality a personal dream, the founding of a top-level symphony orchestra in Budapest. Since that time, I have had countless opportunities to be proud of the outcome, most notably in 2008 when Gramophone Magazine named the BFO among the top ten orchestras in the world, based on a poll of distinguished international journalists. However, very little of the credit is mine. The orchestra's successes are attributable to its dedicated and exceptional musicians, its loyal audience and its devoted friends around the world.

It is my belief that an orchestra musician is an artist, not an employee. If they are treated as an individual, with opportunities to show initiative while still making music as part of a highly disciplined team, they will feel fulfilled and audiences will have an uplifting and meaningful experience. I believe that this is the key to our success. To accomplish this, we need loyal friends who share our ideals and welcome us as family members in their cities. We hope to welcome you soon among our American friends and to share the joy of our music with you for many years to come.



A Greeting From Daisy Soros

CHAIRMAN OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BFO

It is a little over two years since the American Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra was founded. I consented to become Chairman of the Friends of the BFO because I have the deepest admiration for its indefatigable leader, Ivan Fischer, and everything he has accomplished with his orchestra against many odds. In those two years, we have been able to generate much needed financial support for this extraordinary world class orchestra through individual contributions from Board members and friends, as well as gala dinners that coincided with the orchestra's visits to New York.

Some of our Board members and friends have also traveled to Budapest to witness the orchestra work its magic there. We are all eagerly anticipating the BFO's next visit to New York in January. Earlier this year, Maestro Fischer and the orchestra played to sold out houses at Avery Fisher Hall. We expect no less on January 25 and 26 and especially hope to be able to greet you on the 26th, for both the concert and gala dinner, to welcome you among our newest friends or valued returning friends.





At Home & On The Road

The Budapest Festival Orchestra

SEPTEMBER AND MAHLER

Each year since 2005, the Budapest Festival Orchestra has captivated sold out audiences in Budapest with Mahlerfest, a major focus on the composer's symphonic works. This year's festival focused on Mahler's Seventh Symphony and also introduced a new work, *Dionysia*, by prominent Hungarian composer, Laszlo Melis. The program was also heard in three other Hungarian cities, as well as in Graz, Austria. The leading English language weekly guide to Budapest, *Funzine*, summed it up as follows:

"Ivan Fischer is unquestionably a great Mahler interpreter and he has at his disposal a magnificent orchestra. Who would now question that they are in the same league as Vienna, Berlin or the Concertgebouw? On the evidence of this latest offering, no one would."

OCTOBER: THE BFO TRIUMPHS IN ASIA

In the first ten days of October, the BFO toured the Far East, stopping in Taipei, Beijing, Seoul, Seongnam and Daejeon, Korea. The two concerts in Beijing took place in the magnificent National Center for the Performing Arts, which was built for the Olympic Games. During the BFO's visits to Taipei and Beijing, Ivan Fischer took time out of his schedule to meet with young conducting students, eager to learn from him. While still in Asia, the orchestra was re-invited to all three countries. Plans are already underway for two New Year's concerts on December 30 and 31, 2011 in Beijing.

NOVEMBER: SPOTLIGHT ON HUNGARY'S MOST GIFTED YOUNG TALENTS

The Budapest Festival Orchestra and the Hungarian Association of Music and Arts Schools jointly organized a national competition that was open to children playing on all instruments. Seven young talents were chosen by Ivan Fischer and a jury of musicians from the orchestra from among hundreds of applicants. A short film with parts



of the competition can be seen on YouTube (youtube.com/watch?v=dremkqzjy_g). The winners were featured as soloists at a BFO concert in Budapest on November 29, conducted by Maestro Fischer. It was followed by a gala dinner, with proceeds from the evening dedicated to expanding the BFO's activities for children.

DECEMBER: THE BFO TOURS NORTHERN EUROPE

The BFO's final tour of 2010 takes it to Bratislava (12/4), Hamburg (12/6), Copenhagen (12/7) and Oslo (12/8). Audiences will enjoy programs of Haydn and Stravinsky and will undoubtedly be inspired by the partnership of Maestro Fischer and world-renowned pianist, Emanuel Ax.

JANUARY: A RETURN TO AMERICA

Following concerts in Europe in mid-January (Toulouse, 1/13 & 14; London, 1/16; Dublin, 1/17; Dortmund, 1/19, 21 & 22), the BFO will make a much-anticipated return visit to America with concerts in New York at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall on January 25 and 26 and the State Theatre in New Brunswick, New Jersey on January 27. Prior to the concert on the 26th, the Friends of the BFO will host a gala dinner on the Promenade at Avery Fisher Hall.

About

The Budapest Festival Orchestra

The Budapest Festival Orchestra was founded in 1983 by Ivan Fischer, who has remained their sole Music Director for the past 27 years. Under his inspiring and visionary direction, the orchestra has garnered a reputation as one of the most accomplished and exciting orchestras of our time. The orchestra tours extensively and is a regular guest in the most prestigious international concert halls. It has made over 50 recordings with Maestro Fischer, many of which have won awards from publications as diverse as Gramophone and The New Yorker. The BFO's recording of Mahler's Sixth Symphony was nominated for a Grammy ("Best Recording of the Year", 2006). The orchestra's newest release is Beethoven symphonies No. 4 and 6 on the Channel Classics label.

For additional information about the BFO, please visit the orchestra's website: www.bfz.hu.



"Ivan Fischer and his orchestra hit the ball out of the park with this recording, offering a Brahms First Symphony full of personality and fire, all at an exalted technical and interpretive level. Indeed, on the basis of this recording, I would rank Fischer as one of the truly great conductors now active, not just because he justifies yet another recording of this ubiquitous warhorse, but because of his achievement in creating an orchestra whose sound is as characterful as his performances."
—Classics Today

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

All contributions to the Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Inc., are tax deductible and may be sent to:

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F.D.R. Station
P.O. Box 1642
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Questions?
E-mail the Friends at:
fbfo15@gmail.com

