

Berlin, 17 August 2023

A highlight on this year's Kultursommerfestival event calendar: The Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra to perform on the grounds of Schönhausen Palace in Berlin

On **24 August**, as part of the Kultursommerfestival event series, the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra will mark **Ukrainian Independence Day** with a concert held in the gardens of Berlin's Schönhausen Palace. Among the distinguished guests set to deliver welcome addresses prior to the concert are **Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, Federal President of Germany, **Joe Chialo**, Berlin's Senator for Culture, and **Oleksii Makeiev**, Ambassador of Ukraine to Germany.

On its current European tour, the **Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra** sees every performance as an opportunity to take a decisive stand against war, allowing their music to do the talking instead: the overture to Verdi's opera *La forza del destino* (The power of fate), which premiered at the Bolshoi Theatre in St. Petersburg in 1862, is followed by Violin Concerto No. 2 by the great Ukrainian composer Yevhen Stankovych. The highlight of this special performance will be Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, including a choir singing the *Ode to Joy* by Friedrich Schiller in Ukrainian. The main theme of the last movement of Beethoven's ninth symphony – now one of the most popular works of classical music in the world – was adopted as the official anthem of the European Union in 1985. The **Kultursommerfestival** invites all Berliners and guests to attend this special concert on 24 August, which will be held **outside and free of charge**. Join in and celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day in Berlin.

Programme

Giuseppe Verdi: *Overture to La forza del destino*

Yevhen Stankovych: *Violin Concerto No. 2*

-Intermission-

Ludwig van Beethoven: *Symphony No. 9 (with choir)*

Conductor: **Keri-Lynn Wilson**

Soloist: **Valeriy Sokolov**

Date: Thursday, 24 August 2023

Time: Doors open from 6:15pm to 7:15 pm, concert from 7:30pm to 9:45pm

Event location

Schlossgarten Schönhausen (Schönhausen Palace), Kastellanswiese (Castellan Meadow)

Tschaikowskistraße 1 (visitor entrance)

13156 Berlin

Please make sure to obtain press accreditation at the latest by **12 noon on Tuesday, 22 August 2023** at the following site: <https://kulturprojekteberlin.typeform.com/ENpress>. It will not be possible to obtain accreditation afterwards, and there will be no on-site accreditation, for example, by means of an annual accreditation.

Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra

The Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra is an initiative of New York Metropolitan's Opera and the Polish National Opera. It enjoys the patronage of Ukraine's First Lady, **Olena Zelenska**, and receives support from the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture.

Kultursommerfestival

1 summer, 100 events, outdoors and free of charge: the Kultursommerfestival will continue to make culture accessible to all Berliners and visitors free of charge until 3 September.

Kulturprojekte Berlin was created on the initiative of the federal state of Berlin and receives funding from the **Berlin Senate Department of Culture**. The team at **Kulturprojekte** is responsible for developing and coordinating the Kultursommerfestival as a joint project with almost 100 cultural partners. The Kultursommerfestival is part of the DRAUSSENSTADT initiative.

For more information on the Kultursommerfestival and the overall programme schedule, please visit www.kultursommerfestival.berlin and www.kulturprojekte.berlin/projekte/kultursommerfestival-2023

Instagram: www.instagram.com/kultursommerfestival.berlin

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