

PĒTERIS VASKS FESTIVAL
13–20 April 2019 | CĒSIS Concert Hall



Saturday, 13 April 2019 at 14:00

BROTHERS

O'Modernt Chamber Orchestra soloists

Programme: Pēteris Vasks, Arvo Pärt, Albert Schnelzer, Olli Mustonen

In respect of spiritual power and energy, the musical mindset of Pēteris Vasks is shared by composers like Arvo Pärt, Gia Kancheli, Henryk Mikołaj Górecki, John Taverner. As he was giving shape to the musical conception of the festival, Vasks wanted to use the programme of chamber music to highlight the mental affinity between composers from Latvia and the rest of Northern Europe, the shared musical worldview of the Baltic and Nordic region – which is why the programme of this concert features music by the composer most revered by Vasks, Arvo Pärt, works of the contemporary Swedish composer Albert Schnelzer and the Finnish composer Olli Mustonen. These pieces will be performed by the musicians of O'Modernt chamber orchestra, known for their interest in new musical means of expression.

Saturday, 13 April 2019 at 19:00

VASKS IN MUSIC AND DANCE

John Neumeier Bundesjugendballett (Germany)

This year's festival will reveal Pēteris Vasks' music from a different angle – in a contemporary ballet production. The German Bundesjugendballett (National Youth Ballet) and choreographer Sasha Riva have staged a one-act ballet 'Muted' set to Vasks' piece for piano quartet. The music will be performed by Latvian musicians who will share the stage with the dancers.

The ballet is built as a natural interplay between music and movement: the melody and the dance inspire, encourage and complement each other. The sadness and hope of Pēteris Vasks' music is reflected in Rivas' choreography: the melody, sometimes energetic or threatening, sometimes – gentle and sensuous, reveals to the spectator a story of emotions through movement.

In the second part of the night, the ballet company will present a program set to masterpieces of classical music.

Bundesjugendballett was founded in 2011 in Hamburg by the famous choreographer John Neumeier; the company comprises eight professional dancers. With their repertoire that creatively reflects the experiences, awareness and ideas of the younger generation, the company is an excellent mediator between contemporary culture and high art.

Sunday, 14 April 2019 at 19:00

LONELY ANGEL. MEDITATION FRO VIOLIN AND STRING ORCHESTRA

Hugo Ticciati, violin
O'Modernt Chamber Orchestra (Sweden)

Introductory talk with Pēteris Vasks (at 18:00)

Programme: Pēteris Vasks 'Viatore' and 'Lonely Angel', Arturs Maskats Concerto Grosso No. 1, Erkki Sven Tüür 'Angel's Share' (Latvian premiere)

The gift of the Swedish chamber orchestra O'Modernt to the Latvian festival is a programme of Baltic music where Latvians Pēteris Vasks and Arturs Maskats are rubbing shoulders with the Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür, whose 'Angel's Share' for violin and orchestra is dedicated to violinist Hugo Ticciati, the artistic director of the O'Modernt orchestra; its Latvian premiere in presence of the author is going to be one of the festival's highlights.

The O'Modernt chamber orchestra has brought together leading young musicians from all over Europe. Although founded just a couple of years ago, the orchestra has already won wide international acclaim and performed at prestigious venues

like London's Wigmore Hall, Konzerthaus in Berlin, Musikverein in Vienna and the Amsterdam Muziekgebouw. O'Modernt works with world-famous solo musicians like Evelyn Glennie, Steven Isserlis, Anne Sofie von Otter and Nils Landgren, as well as with rappers, choreographers and rock musicians.

The founder of O'Modernt Hugo Ticciati, also the soloist at the concert, is a passionate interpreter of contemporary music. He collaborates with Sven-David Sandström, Albert Schnelzer, Andersu Hillborg, Thomas Jennefelt, Sergey Yevtushenko and many other composers. Ticciati has performed the violin concertos written for him on almost every continent of the world. He loves combining music with dance and literature – also with more marginal activities like kinetic painting or stone balancing.

Saturday, 20 April 2019 at 19:00

VASKS, ŠIMKUS, PURVĪTIS

Vestards Šimkus, piano
Roberts Rubīns, video

Programme: Pēteris Vasks, 'The Seasons' piano cycle

This year's Pēteris Vasks Festival features a repeated performance of the 2016 Cēsis Concert Hall multi-media production of Vasks' piano cycle 'The Seasons' where the musical interpretation by the brilliant pianist Vestards Šimkus is complemented by Roberts Rubīns' animated projections of the most beautiful works by the classical Latvian painter Vilhelms Purvītis – Latvian landscapes of all four seasons.

1980 saw Pēteris Vasks write his 'White Scenery'. A year later came 'Autumn Music'. In 1995 premiered his 'Spring Music'. It was in the winter of 2009 that Maestro completed the score painting the one missing season – summer. In Vasks' piano cycle, autumn is late sunshine and transparent cobweb threads. Winter is white like a January morning when snow has covered everything that is dirty. Spring is the first dripping icicles and first bird songs. Summer is infinite joy transformed into a serene scene: Midsummer Night revellers have finally gone to bed; early on Midsummer Day's morning, flower wreaths are slowly floating down the river that carries them to the sea.