

A CONCERT TO REMEMBER

Roman Simović showcased all the possibilities and the beauty of the violin

Dubrovnik, 1 August 2022 – One of the most respected violinists of his generation **Roman Simović** performed at the Dubrovnik Summer Festival **last night, 31 July, in the Rector's Palace Atrium**, leaving a strong impression on the gathered audience with an excellent performance of an exciting programme.

The impressive and bold programme of last night's concert consisted of Eugène Ysaÿe's the exciting sonatas, his *Six Sonatas for Solo Violin* more precisely, a piece whose technical demands and harmonic originality demand the highest level of performance, in some passages almost to perfection. Roman Simović indeed achieved unwavering virtuosity last night at the Rector's Palace, six years since his last Festival performance there. Ysaÿe's *Sonatas* are considered a kind of stylistic bridge between the old and new, tradition and improvisation, providing an intersection of violinist techniques and approaches - modelled after Bach, and inspired by the best violinists of the 20th century, their authentic styles and ways of playing. Thus, the unique individual temperament of each sonata was meticulously molded by Simović, collected and insightful in his performance, which was captivating in a truly special way, especially his skilful naturalness and ease of playing. Fully embodying the composer's vision of a true violinist who is both a thinker and a poet, Simović flawlessly demonstrated the full range of emotions and techniques as well as all the beauty and poetry of his instrument, which the audience not only truly enjoyed but also recognized and appreciated, sending off each sonata with a long applause, even at the end with a standing ovation calling Simović for a bow several times. That is why Simović's impressive biography and current engagement as concertmaster of the London Symphony Orchestra, one of the world's leading orchestras. The performance of two musical additions, Bach's Sarabande from the piece Partita for solo violin no. 2 in D minor and Sher's Scherzo for solo violin, with which he thanked the enchanted audience, only made better an already great musical evening.

The music programme of the 73rd Dubrovnik Summer Festival brings another solo recital with a concert by the pianist Vadym Kholodenko on Sunday, 7 August at 9:30 p.m. in the Rector's Palace Atrium, who will play works by Ades, Schubert and Prokofiev. Concert tickets are available online at the Festival's official website and through the ticket service www.ulaznice.hr, as well as the Festival Palace Box Office (Od Sigurate 1), which is open every day from 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the venue, two hours prior to the performance. Purchases made with Mastercard® and Maestro® cards provide special benefits and discounts.

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival – the centre of Croatian and global spirit and culture, a place of creation and not just a place of visit, a place of community, ideas and new artistic expressions, is traditionally supported this year by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik-neretva county, Dubrovnik Tourist Board and numerous sponsors Euroherc, Mastercard, HEP, ACI club, ALH, Kraš, Coca-Cola, Croatia Airlines and TuttoBene and donors Caboga Stiftung foundation, OTP bank, and other benefactors who helped bring this most prestigious cultural event in Croatia to fruition.

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