



DUBROVAČKE LJETNE IGRE DUBROVNIK SUMMER FESTIVAL

OD SIGURATE 1 · 20000 DUBROVNIK · HRVATSKA · TEL. ++385 (0)20 326 100 · FAX: ++385 (0)20 326 116
E-MAIL: SECRETARIAT@DUBROVNIK-FESTIVAL.HR · INFO@DUBROVNIK-FESTIVAL.HR
WWW.DUBROVNIK-FESTIVAL.HR

MASTERFUL MUSICIANSHIP

A flawless solo recital by Nicolas Altstaedt

Dubrovnik, 1 August 2023 – Charismatic cellist **Nicolas Altstaedt** held a solo recital **last night, 31 July in the Rector's Palace atrium**, and his impeccable performance of canonical compositions and contemporary classics drew long-lasting applause and ovations from the Festival audience.

Nicolas Altstaedt's first performance in Dubrovnik began with the short suite *Trois strophes sur le nom de Sacher* or *Three Stanzas on the Name Sacher*. The piece composed by the musical perfectionist Dutilleux on the commission of the great cellist Mstislav Rostropovich for the seventieth birthday of Paul Sacher, the long-time leader of leader of the Basler Kammerorchester, reveals the letters of Sacher's name in the notation, while the cello's range is expanded by scordatura, or a different tuning of the instrument which changes its timbre. The poetic virtuosity and impeccable technique of this talented musician, who is equally involved with the conductor's baton as well as with the cellist's bow, was on full display in the Rector's Palace, with Altstaedt carefully nuancing each composition on the programme with a masterful sensibility, presenting with ease all the complexity of the dynamic music relationships. Altstaedt was at his best in the canonical repertoire; Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor the punctuated rhythms of which brought a melancholic and dark atmosphere. The freshness of *Melodie*, Jörg Widmann's latest work, was continued by Kodály's *Sonata for solo cello, Op.8*, a modern cello classic that stands out for its complexity, modality and chromaticism. Unquestionable was finally the pleasure of the Festival audience, who followed each piece with loud applause and repeatedly inviting the musician to bow.

Nicolas Altstaedt will be playing again at the Rectors Palace tomorrow, 2 August where he will perform with the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra under the baton of maestro Pavle Zajcev, and the tickets for the concert are available via the festival website www.dubrovnik-festival.hr or the service www.ulaznice.hr, at the box office in the Festival Palace (Od Sigurate 1) every day from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and in front of the DTS building (Vukovarska St) from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 once again 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 Mastercard, Dubrovnik Airport, ACI club, ALH, Euroherc, Studenac, HEP, Croatian Lottery, Coca-Cola, MG Motors, Kraš, Croatia Airlines, and donors OTP bank, Atlantska Plovidba alongside other benefactors who helped bring this most prestigious cultural event in Croatia to fruition.

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Media contact:

Katija Krečak Jarović

PR and Marketing Department

M. 095 323 20 52 / T. 020 326 111

E. katija.krecak.jarovic@dubrovnik-festival.hr

www.dubrovnik-festival.hr