



# DUBROVAČKE LJETNE IGRE DUBROVNIK SUMMER FESTIVAL

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AWAITED MUSIC EXPERIENCE

## **Nicolas Altstaedt and Pavle Zajcev with the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra in the Rector's Palace**

**Dubrovnik, 1 August 2023** – The **Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra** will perform under the baton of the Croatian maestro **Pavle Zajcev** with the German-French cellist **Nicolas Altstaedt tomorrow, 2 August in the Rector's Palace atrium** starting at **9 p.m.**, and their programme will include works by Sergei Prokofiev, Joseph Haydn and Ludwig van Beethoven.

The concert will begin with *Symphony No. 1 in D major, Op. 25* by Sergei Prokofiev, which is also known as *Classical*. It was written during the revolutionary year of 1917 and is Prokofiev's first symphonic work. It will be followed by the *Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major* composed by Joseph Haydn, one of the representatives of the holy trinity of Viennese classical along with Mozart and Beethoven. The piece was considered lost until 1961, when it was found in Prague by musicologist Oldřich Pulkert. The next composition to be performed, *Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93* by, was written by Haydn's famous student, the extraordinary Ludwig van Beethoven, who, according to Yehudi Menuhin, was a giant, inscrutable to most mortals due to his uncompromising power and unobsequious approach to music and people. The eighth of Beethoven's nine legendary symphonies represents one of the author's lesser-known compositions, in which he returns to his roots and Haydn's legacy to some extent, to smaller-scale forms different from the grand, explosive ones popular at that time.

The Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra is an essential part of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Dubrovnik and Croatia and an indispensable part of the program of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival, where it regularly performs with top foreign and domestic guest soloists, and in 2023, they celebrate their 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ongoing work. During tomorrow's performance at the Rector's Palace, they will be conducted by maestro Pavle Zajcev, a renowned cellist, and Associate Professor of chamber music at the Academy of Music in Zagreb, who has a rich career behind him. He premiered Pavle Dešpalj's *Concerto for cello and strings* with the Zagreb Soloists, recorded it with the Croatian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra conducted by the composer, and subsequently won the Porin Award in the category of Best Performance, which is one of his greatest recent achievements. Since 2010 he has been a permanent collaborator of the Antiphonus ensemble. Sharing the stage with them is Nicolas Altstaedt, a cellist, conductor, and artistic director who performs a repertoire ranging from early to contemporary music playing on historical and modern instruments, whose latest album, recorded for the Lockenhaus Festival, won the 2020 BBC Music Magazine Award in the chamber music category as well as the Gramophone award.

Tickets for the concert are available via the festival website [www.dubrovnik-festival.hr](http://www.dubrovnik-festival.hr) or the service [www.ulaznice.hr](http://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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