

LIBERTAS

Dubrovnik Summer Festival

since 1950

10 July – 25 August

www.dubrovnik-festival.hr

The ambience and the City as a unique meeting place of the world's and Croatia's finest artists

The bustling walled city of Dubrovnik hosts its spectacular and one of the oldest European festivals – the Dubrovnik Summer Festival – presenting rich and vibrant theatre, ballet, opera, classical music, jazz, fine arts, film and folklore programme. The ambience and the City as a unique meeting place of the world's and Croatia's finest artists remain the basic feature of the forthcoming 68th Festival. Review of top solo artists, chamber ensembles and orchestras from all around the world will be performing this year on remarkable historical squares, palaces, churches, gardens and streets of the Renaissance-Baroque City of Dubrovnik.



VENUE: more than 15 different venues in the Old City of Dubrovnik and its surrounding area

PERIOD: 10 July – 25 August 2017

EVENTS: more than 80 theatre, classical music, jazz, opera, ballet, folklore and other events

ARTISTS: approx. 2000 international

PROGRAMME PUBLISHED: 2 February 2017

ONLINE TICKETS: available at www.dubrovnik-festival.hr

TICKETS RANGE: 20-70 EUR (depending on the event and seat)

Success of the Festival

Crucial for the success of the Festival are its longevity and continuously high artistic standard, but also the Festival's concept, which makes it different from numerous other European summer festivals. Namely, unlike the majority of other summer festivals, the Dubrovnik Summer Festival doesn't use open air venues as mere visual attractions and face walls of the palaces and beautiful gardens only as sets. In Dubrovnik the space is decisive in creating a theatrical event. That is the reason why our catalogue, during the almost six decades of existence, comprises nearly 120 various venues! That actually means almost the entire City and the sea surrounding it, which results in a unique bond between the City and the Festival.

History

The founding of the Festival, planned for 1933 within the World PEN Congress in Dubrovnik, was postponed because of the events connected with World War II. When the Festival was finally founded in 1950, it was a time when Europe was traumatized with war, and searched for a completely new way of life and national coexistence. Yet, that was Europe divided with the Iron Curtain. By a combination of circumstances the Dubrovnik Festival found itself on the boundary of this bipolar world. That is why it had been for decades the only place where the finest artists from the Eastern Europe and the West could meet and create together. That was crucial in determining not only the quality of the Festival, but also its importance in the context of European culture. The fall of the communist Europe brought along the end of the bipolar world, but also the aggression on Croatia in 1991. The most important thing for both the Festival and Dubrovnik was to survive.

Music programmes has hosted over the years world's finest conductors, orchestras, choirs and soloists - including Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Herbert von Karajan and Israeli Philharmonic conducted by Zubin Mehta, but also Svyatoslav Richter, Vladimir Ashkenazy, David Oistrakh, Monserrat Caballé and lately Ramon Vargas, Inva Mula, Leo Nucci, Daniel Barenboim and many others. Greatest names of jazz - such as Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington and Jacky Terrasson - also appeared on the Festival stages.



Although very diverse, Festival's theatre programmes is worldwide famous for the Shakespeare's *Hamlet* productions on Lovrjenac Fort. It is common belief that that magical stage has crowned the Danish prince and that the spirit of Hamlet's father inhabits the Fort. There, Hamlet was played by Daniel Day Lewis, Derek Jacobi, Rade Serbedzija and Goran Visnjic among others.

Policy (aims) of the Festival

Dubrovnik wishes to keep its important position within the European cultural production, yet in a way that it will be even more recognized as a place where art is created, and not merely as a beautiful city visited briefly by prestigious artists and rich tourists. We therefore wish to enhance the influence of our venues in creating the recognizable cultural products of Dubrovnik, believing that the City (including the residents) is a major co-creator of the Festival's artistic product.

Local audience

We believe that no other European festival is this much connected with the destiny of its city. The Festival is a major feature of the modern Dubrovnik, because it amalgamates in a perfect way the great historic and cultural tradition with modern everyday life. The residents of Dubrovnik carefully watch over both major and minor events at the Festival. They never hesitate to express their opinions – which, of course, are not always affirmative. On the other hand, this critical «intimacy» is one of the Festival's treasures. We believe that Dubrovnik is one of the few places in Europe where artistic production is not just a part of the cultural industry and/or showbiz, but also a matter of the deepest public interest. This is an essentially different creative position in comparison with that of many festivals in Europe, which achieve high artistic results, yet are actually marginalized within their own social space.

Vision

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival will be recognised as the major producer of top-quality events in Dubrovnik, as Croatia's leading cultural institution, and as one of Europe's five most distinguished cultural festivals. Relying on the City's and its own rich and living heritage, the Festival will continue to promote it's site-specific programme policy, combine tradition and modernity, and connect local, national and international creativity. As a place where people gather together to exchange ideas and create new projects, the Festival will promote Dubrovnik as a Croatian and world spiritual and cultural centre.

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The Festival is a major feature of the modern Dubrovnik, because it amalgamates in a perfect way the great historic and cultural tradition with modern everyday life. “Dubrovnik is the city of poets and a poet city. Dubrovnik is the city of wonders. Born on the shores that are the cradle of mankind. Like Aphrodite it emerged from the rocks of the sea, from Heraclitus fire rhythmically extinguished and rhythmically burning again”; the Mediterranean is its link with the continents, other civilizations and nations. Incomparable Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik is an authentic climate of the human spirit. The city made of stones and dreams.” – Jure Kaštelan (Croatian writer and poet)

2016

The results of audience polling, which the Festival carries out every year, show that in 2016 its audience consisted of 33% international, 44% local and 23% visitors from other parts of Croatia, the majority of which were those from Zagreb. The largest age group consists of visitors between 30 and 50 years of age (36%), who hold associate and university degrees (79%). Previous years have shown similar data.

According to the MediaNet analyses, the Dubrovnik Summer Festival has – from 1 July to 1 September 2016 – had positive PR results in the press and on TV, the estimated value of which amounts to nearly 20 million Kuna which is an increase of 5 million Kuna compared to year before. The aforementioned period saw 833 media releases (TV and the press), the total value of which amounts to 31 million Kuna. Opening and Closing Ceremonies were broadcasted live on Croatian National Radio and Television.

The 67th Dubrovnik Summer Festival was covered by 223 accredited media representatives from Croatia and abroad.

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