

A MUST-SEE CONCERT OF THE FESTIVAL SEASON

Fazıl Say, a pianist of extraordinary ability, at the Rector's Palace!

Dubrovnik, 28 July 2022 – World-renowned pianist **Fazıl Say** will be performing Johann Sebastian Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and his own *À la carte* programme for the festival audience **tomorrow, 29 July at 9.30 p.m. in the Rector's Palace Atrium**.

The foundation of Say's programme is Bach's piano composition originally called *Aria with Thirty Variations*, but which is better known as the *Goldberg Variations*. Published in 1741 as the fourth part of his *Clavier-Übung* (*Piano Exercise*) cycle, the composition is associated with an apocryphal story which says that Johann Goldberg, a private harpsichordist of Count Keyserlingk, the Russian ambassador at the court of Saxony, performed these variations when the Count could not sleep. Whatever the origin of its name, the meticulously composed composition consists of 30 different variations on the same theme, starting with the *Aria*, which is transformed through different musical techniques to finally return with a completely different listening experience from first hearing. This is followed by an *À la carte* recital, Say's own programme with which the pianist, dubbed a 'genius' by the French *Le Figaro*, will surprise the audience, as the name itself seems to suggest. In addition to Bach, Say's wide repertoire is devoted to the works of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, as well as Romantic and contemporary music, including his own compositions for piano.

With his extraordinary pianistic ability, **Fazıl Say** has been touching audiences and critics alike for 25 years in a way that has become rare. Concerts with this artist are different concerts; they are more direct, more open, more exciting. In short: they go straight to the heart. Say has subsequently performed with all the renowned American and European orchestras and numerous great conductors, in countless countries on all five continents. Since the 2019/20 season, he has been Artistic Partner of the Camerata Salzburg. In December 2016, Fazıl Say received the International Beethovenpreis for Human Rights, Peace, Freedom, Poverty Alleviation and Inclusion in Bonn. In autumn 2017, he was awarded the Music Prize of the City of Duisburg. Fazıl Say's recordings of works by Bach, Mozart, Gershwin and Stravinsky on Teldec Classics as well as Mussorgsky, Beethoven and his own works on naïve have been highly praised by record critics and have received several awards, including three Echo Klassik awards. In the 2021/22 season he will record Bach's *Goldberg Variations* for Warner Classics.

Concert tickets are available online at the Festival's official website <https://www.dubrovnik-festival.hr/> 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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