



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

72ND FESTIVAL MUSIC PROGRAMME

Debut performance of kvARTet at Rector's Palace on Tuesday

Dubrovnik, 1 August 2021 – Violinists **Đana Kahrman**, **Eva Šulić** and **Šimun Končić** with cellist **Pavle Zajcev** will share the stage together for the first time as **kvARTet**, on **Tuesday 3 August** at **9.30pm** in the **Rector's Palace atrium**, performing string quartets by van Beethoven and Dvořák.

Ludwig van Beethoven's *String Quartet No. 7 in F Major* which the kvARTet ensemble will perform in the first part of the concert is the first of three of his *Rasumovsky* cycle of string quartets, a complex work of difficult, long and deeply thought out notes which the composer's contemporaries considered to be "generally incomprehensible", and which notoriously requires a vast technical repertoire. Today these impress with a "symphonic" approach to the string quartet. A mood reversal in the second part of the concert is brought about by *String Quartet in F major*, nicknamed "the American Quartet", by Antonin Dvořák. The shortest and simplest of Dvořák's chamber pieces, it was composed in the pastoral setting of Iowa, which influenced the composition's character.

Đana Kahrman has won numerous awards at violin competitions. Since 2011 she is a member of the Zagreb Soloists and since 2015 concert master for the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra. Virtuoso violinist **Eva Šulić** received her education from top music conservatories, with many awards and acclaims won at prestigious competitions, and this year she became a member of the Croatian Radio and Television as assistant concert master. Lead viola of the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra **Šimun Končić** graduated from the Zagreb Academy of Music under Milan Čunko. He has also won awards at national competitions in solo and chamber competitions, and studied with distinguished professors, such as Bruno Giuranna, Hans Peter Ochschofer, Pavle Zajcev and others. Acclaimed cellist and Associate Professor of chamber music at the Zagreb Academy of Music **Pavle Zajcev**, the fourth member of the quartet, has a rich career as chamber musician and conductor. For his performance of Pavle Dešpalj's *Concerto for cello and strings* with the Zagreb Soloists and recording of it with the Croatian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra conducted by the composer, he won the prestigious Croatian award Porin in the category of Best Performance. As of 2010 he is a permanent associate of the Antiphonus Ensemble and a regular guest conductor with the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets for this standout debut are available for purchase at the Dubrovnik Summer Festival website www.dubrovnik-festival.hr or via www.ulaznice.hr ticketing service, and at the box office of the Festival Palace (Od Sigurate 1) every day from 9am to 9.30pm. Tickets will also be available on location two hours before the start of the performance. Ticket prices remain significantly reduced due to the economic situation being impacted by the pandemic, up to 50% lower as was the case last year. Purchases made with Mastercard® and Maestro® cards receive a 10% discount while all purchases and orders over 500HRK offer payment in instalments.

All 72nd Dubrovnik Summer Festival programmes are certified as *safe gatherings*, meaning the events will be organised according to current rules and recommendations by the national and local Civil Protection Headquarters and the World Health Organization, according to which maintaining physical distance of one seat with compulsory face masks has been deemed sufficient for audiences at low-risk events and the attendees are not obligated to present their EU digital COVID pass.

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 and numerous other sponsors and benefactors who helped bring this most prestigious cultural event in Croatia to fruition.

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Kontakt za medije:

Karla Labaš

Ured za odnose s javnošću i marketing

M. 091 323 42 56 / T. 020 326 111

E. karla.labas@dubrovnik-festival.hr

www.dubrovnik-festival.hr