

Musikfestspiele  
POTSDAM SANSSOUCI  
8<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018



## EUROPE

Program & concept: Dr. Andrea Palent | Thomas Höft

From 8 until 24 June 2018 the Music Festival Potsdam Sanssouci brings the sounds of EUROPE to the palaces and gardens of Sanssouci: with anthem and fanfare, baroque opera multinational, a music night of the allies in Cecilienhof, a Ball of the People in Sanssouci and much more. In over 80 concerts, operas and guided tours artists from more than 30 countries present the traditions and the diversity of European music. They pursue cross-border migrations of the arts as well as cross-linking of regional music cultures and ultimately celebrate the utopia Europe: as contribution to the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 »Sharing Heritage«.

Potsdam is a burning mirror of European history. The Music Festival's venues tell that story – there is creative togetherness as well as fatal power play. The rift separating political sides after 1945 went right through Potsdam's unique cultural landscape. The fact that in this context things that belong together grow together again and merge is an encouraging sign bearing witness to the vital force of the European idea. A good reason for the Music Festival to explore the diversity of European musical regions and musical traditions with both their uniqueness as well as their connectedness and to celebrate music as a game without limits for a harmonious Europe.

In fact the **Opening Concert: Europe Unlimited!** makes migrations of musicians in the baroque period literally audible: Fabio Bondi and his Italian star ensemble EUROPA GALANTE combine movements from pieces by composers with various national backgrounds to new suites and concerti, creating pieces to be heard for the very first time.

Two **Opera Premieres** also approach Europe: André Campra's Opéra-Ballet »L'Europe galante« shows lovers from four nations, presenting a highly entertaining baroque musical and top baroque dancing in proper style. Alessandro Melani's opera rarity »L'Europa«, the myth of Europa's abduction by Jupiter in the shape of a bull in one of its few musical renderings, is combined with music by Georg Muffat who amicably unites styles and nations.

How fresh music can flow from old sources when the early music scene is hot-wired with regional folk music traditions can not only be experienced with Christina Pluhar & L'ARPEGGIATA featuring their new program **All'Improviso: Balkans**: there is triple-fold FolkBaroque from Celtic to Basque at the **Day of the Nations** before the Orangery Palace Sanssouci and its surroundings turn into a European Dance Headquarters at the **Sanssouci Folk Night: Ball of the People**.

»Potsdam's Europe« from the Dutch Quarter to the Swiss Village is discovered by the **bicycle concert** featuring 18 original venues with European connections. And when the **Sanssouci Prom Concert: Ode to Joy** closes the festival with the original Eurovision fanfare and the original European anthem, it is also time to say goodbye for Dr. Andrea Palent as Artistic Director: after 28 seasons that not only saw the Music Festival Potsdam Sanssouci turn from the GDR's Park Festival into one of Germany's leading early music festivals, but also witnessed a lasting change in the face of Europe.

## CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

>>> Friday, 8 June 2018 | 20.00 h | Church of Peace Sanssouci  
Opening Concert: EUROPE UNLIMITED! *Galant opening with baroque migrants*  
Europa Galante | Fabio Biondi

>>> Friday, 8 June 2018 | 22.00 h | Court of Honour Sanssouci Palace  
GYPSY BAROQUE *The wild freshness from Europe's East*  
Il Suonar Parlante Orchestra | Vittorio Ghielmi & gypsy musicians

>>> Saturday, 9 June 2018 | 20.00 h | Area around Orangery Palaace Sanssouci  
SANSSOUCI FOLK NIGHT: BALL OF THE PEOPLE *Europe dances to the sounds of home*

>>> Sunday, 10 June 2018 | 20.00 h | Church of Peace Sanssouci  
EUROPEANS AT THE PRUSSIAN COURT *Groupe picture with illustrious guests*  
Matthias Brandt | Ensemble 1700 | Dorothee Oberlinger

>>> Saturday, 16 June 2018 | 22.00 h | Terraces Orangery Palace Sanssouci  
ALL'IMPROVVISO BALKANS  
*Christina Pluhar's new Balkans project with stellar cast and fireworks*  
L'Arpeggiata | Christina Pluhar & guests

>>> Friday, 22 June 2018 | 20.00 h | Nikolaisaal Potsdam  
PRIMADONNAS & CASTRATOS *Baroque's touring superstars*  
Vivica Genaux | David Hansen | Academia Montis Regalis | Alessandro De Marchi

>>> Sunday, 24 June 2018 | 21.00 h | Communs New Palace of Sanssouci  
SANSSOUCI PROM CONCERT: ODE TO JOY *Closing concert with fireworks*  
Cantus Domus | Kammerakademie Potsdam | Antonello Manacorda & soloists

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Information and tickets: +49 (331) 28 888 28 | [www.musikfestspiele-potsdam.de](http://www.musikfestspiele-potsdam.de)

### PRESS INQUIRIES

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