

Dear Friends,

As summer unfolds, the Budapest Festival Orchestra is preparing for an exciting season of festivals, special performances and memorable encounters. Whether you'll be joining us somewhere along our European tour or planning a visit to Budapest this autumn, we hope to see you soon. Until then, here are the latest news and invitations from the BFO.

From Salzburg to Lucerne: Join the Budapest Festival Orchestra on Tour

From **8 to 22 August**, the Budapest Festival Orchestra returns to some of Europe's most celebrated music festivals, bringing a rich variety of programs to audiences in **Austria, Switzerland** and **France**.

The tour opens on **8 August** at the [Salzburg Festival](#), where Iván Fischer conducts **Schubert's** "Unfinished" Symphony, **György Kurtág's** Movement for Viola and Orchestra – a tribute in the composer's centenary year – with violist **Lawrence Power** as soloist and **Mahler's** Symphony No. 1.

On **16 August**, the orchestra appears at the [Menuhin Festival Gstaad](#), joined by pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason** for **Rachmaninoff's** Piano Concerto No. 3, alongside Vocalise and **Mahler's** First Symphony. The following evening, **17 August**, musicians of the orchestra present a chamber concert featuring **Bartók's** Divertimento, **Mendelssohn's** String Octet and **Iván Fischer's** A German-Yiddish Cantata, with soprano **Mirella Hagen** and trumpeter **Gergely Csikota**.

The Rachmaninoff–Mahler program then travels to France for the [La Chaise-Dieu Festival](#) on **19 August** before the orchestra returns to Switzerland for the [Lucerne Festival](#). On **21 August**, **Elisabeth Leonskaja** joins the orchestra for **Mozart's** Piano Concerto No. 24 in a program that also includes **Schubert's** "Unfinished" Symphony and **Bartók's** The Miraculous Mandarin, featuring the **Eva Duda Dance Company**.

The tour concludes on **22 August** with a special [Mittendrinn concert](#) at the Lucerne Festival, where Iván Fischer conducts his own suite from **Prokofiev's** Cinderella.

If you're planning to visit any of these festivals this summer, we hope to see you there.

Join us at the Vicenza Opera Festival

Tickets for The Magic Flute in Vicenza sold out within days. However, **Circle of Friends members** still have the opportunity to experience the festival from within – including personal time with Iván Fischer – while supporting the realization of this unique project.

The 2026 Circle of Friends tour takes place from **22–25 October**. For an outline of the program and practical details, including last year's itinerary, please see [here](#). We would be delighted to [reserve your place](#).

Discover the International Friends of the BFO

The BFO depends on the support of corporate and private sponsors to maintain its standing among the world's leading orchestras. An equally important role is played by its international Friends groups, whose members support the Orchestra from Germany and the United Kingdom to Switzerland and the United States. Your donation also funds innovative community-building and educational programs to allow new audiences and new generations to hear music making at its very best.

- **International Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra – Germany e.V.**

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- **British Friends of the BFO**

To join or to receive more information on the British Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra and the club's events, please contact partner@bfz.hu or write to

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With warm regards,
Orsolya Erdődy
The Budapest Festival Orchestra