



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **PLMF IS BRINGING WORLD-CLASS ARTISTS TO TALLINN**

At the start of July, **YOA Orchestra of the Americas**—a world-class symphony orchestra comprised of 80 top musicians from 25 countries of the Western Hemisphere—in partnership with the **Boston Youth Philharmonic Orchestra**, will be performing in Estonia, under the baton of world-class conductors, including **Benjamin Zander** (UK/USA) and **Carlos Miguel Prieto** (Mexico). In addition, two famous soloists from France, violinist **Alexandra Soumm** and cellist **Gautier Capuçon**, will be performing with the orchestra. The YOA concerts and residency in Estonia are the most triumphant work of PLMF Music Trust, and launch **YOA's Nordic-Baltic Tour** that includes 14 performances across **Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany**.

"I sincerely hope that YOA's visit will be mutually inspiring and will enrich our cultural relations," said the President of the Estonian Republic, **Toomas Hendrik Ilves**, in support of the project. "On the special occasion of YOA's visit to Estonia, join me in congratulating these young musicians from whom I continue to learn because of their love, dedication, and hard work," expressed **Plácido Domingo**, YOA Artistic Advisor.

YOA Orchestra of the Americas' visit to Estonia is one of the largest cultural collaborations in history between the Americas and Estonia. In addition to the high-quality concerts, one of Estonia's renowned bassoonists, **Martin Kuuskmann**, will coach YOA musicians as part of the orchestra's Faculty within the framework of the Rapla Summer Academy. Kuuskmann will be joined by YOA's Faculty of principal orchestra members from the **Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw, Metropolitan Opera, Rome Opera, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, Brussels Philharmonic**, and other top international music institutions. One of Estonia's greatest solo pianists, **Irina Zahharenkova**, will also be performing as a soloist with the orchestra during its concert tour in Lithuania and Germany. During the first two weeks of July 01.07-12.07, the Summer Academy will offer different activities for youth as well as professionals.

"YOA Orchestra of the Americas is a symphony orchestra of the top level, giving audiences an unforgettable experience in music. Every summer it brings together the most talented musicians from the Americas between the ages of 18-30 to participate in a two-week residency and to perform together during a month-long tour," described PLMF Director, Leelo Lehtla. "Receiving more than 1300 auditions this past February—making YOA one of the most competitive orchestras in the world—YOA's global impact is characterized by concerts in well-known venues around the world, as well as groundbreaking performances in settings not usually associated with symphonic music, in addition to having reached over 12 million listeners on television and radio."

YOA's concerts in Estonia take place during the **Rapla Church Music Festival** (01.07-15.07) and as part of the **Festival Glasperlenspiel in Tartu** (11.07). "It is a real honor to host in Europe for the first time an orchestra that is a 2015 Latin Grammy winner and whose artistic advisors include Plácido Domingo, Philip Glass, Yo-Yo Ma, Valery Gergiev and Margarita Argerich," said the Rapla Festival's Artistic Director Pille Lill.

Tickets for the Rapla Church Music Festival are available via Piletilevi with discount prices until the end of March:
<http://www.raplafestival.ee/#!2016-programm/c1oci>

YOA's residency and concerts in Estonia are supported by: Sadolin, the US Embassy, the Ministry of Culture, the Cultural Endowment of Estonia, Gambling Tax Council, Rapla parish and municipal development fund and many others. *PLMF Music Trust was inaugurated in 2003 by the well-known Estonian soprano Pille Lill with the aim to support the development of talented professional musicians by organizing master classes, opportunities to perform and by introducing them internationally.*

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