



European Union Youth Orchestra launches Spring Tour 2013 to Switzerland, Italy, Poland and Spain *Inaugural performances to take place at Interlaken Classics, Switzerland*

The European Union Youth Orchestra, which is composed of some of the most talented young musicians aged between 14 and 25 who come from all 27 European Union countries, will launch an ambitious, 15-concert Spring Tour with performances on March 30th, 31st and April 1st at the Casino Kursaal, Interlaken, as part of the Interlaken Classics series. The 120 musicians who are taking part in the tour have gathered together in the stunning Swiss resort for an intensive two-week rehearsal period, in which they will tackle some of the most exciting and challenging repertoire of the 20th Century – including Igor Stravinsky's notoriously difficult *Sacre du Printemps* which caused a 'succès de scandale' when it premiered in Paris 100 years ago.

The conductor for the tour is the EUYO's celebrated Maestro Vladimir Ashkenazy, a long-term resident of Switzerland. German violinist Isabelle Faust will join the Orchestra in Switzerland and Italy, and British violinist Daniel Hope will join the EUYO in Spain. As well as performing *Sacre*, the Orchestra will celebrate the 100th anniversaries of both Benjamin Britten and Witold Lutosławski, as well as featuring symphonic works by Ravel, Poulenc, Berkeley, De Falla, a Mozart concerto, and chamber music by Bloch, Pärt, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and Strauss. In Interlaken, the young musicians of the EUYO will also take part in the Interlaken Classics' *Intermezzo* programme, which engages visiting performers in workshops in local schools.

Throughout its history, the EUYO has acted as a Cultural Ambassador for the European Union, showcasing young Europe's musical talents across the globe, from New York to Nicosia, Seoul to São Paulo, Moscow to Mumbai. Its Patrons include the Heads of State and Government of the 27 European Union Member States. In 2013, the EUYO will welcome young Croatian musicians into the Orchestra for the first time, once Croatia has formally joined the EU on 1st July.

The EUYO provides an exceptional bridge between music colleges and the professional music world for almost 3,000 alumni. Every year, between 3,000 and 4,000 young musicians audition in all of the EU member states for an opportunity to join the Orchestra. The EUYO has garnered much praise under the musical leadership of its current Music Director, Maestro Vladimir Ashkenazy, and was recently described by the New York Times as '*among the elite institutions of its kind.*' The EUYO's alumni have gone on to perform with some of the world's leading orchestras, as well as developing careers as soloists, conductors, composers and music teachers. In a recently-launched alumni survey, 93% of respondents so far said that they are currently working as professional musicians.

Full details of the EUYO's spring tour can be found here:

<http://www.euyo.org.uk/spring-tour-2013>

To purchase tickets for the concerts in Interlaken, please visit:

<http://www.interlaken-classics.ch/>

For further information on the EUYO, or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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