

## **Breathtaking Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concert at the Wiener Festwochen**

Margaret Juzová

As part of the prestigious international theater and music festival "Wiener Festwochen", hosted by the Society of music friends in Vienna, an important element of the United States performed in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra arrived in the Austrian capital with its Austrian music director, who joined the PSO in the season 2008/2009 and will remain in his position after two extensions till the season 2019/2020. The orchestra performed on two days within the festival, accompanied by the young Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov and the Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos. However, only the first concert on May 27, 2016 offered Czech music to the listeners.

Manfred Honeck, principal guest conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, began the evening in his native country with one of the most famous overtures of orchestral music. The Carnival overture, Op. 92 by Antonin Dvorak was under the temperamental conductor in emotion imbued with thrilling spontaneity. Works from the series "Nature, Life and Love" were played by the American orchestra in great contrast. Extremely fast paces in powerful graduations of the dynamic instrumental groups alternated with very slow passages of intimate sound fragility.

The outstanding young Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov performed in the following composition. In his twenty-five years he has had an exceptional musical career, he has performed with world-famous orchestras in Asia, Europe and the United States.

Successfully he began filming for the prestigious label Deutsche Grammophon.

The audience in the Golden Hall got enthusiastic about Trifonov playing Franz Liszt's Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major for piano and orchestra. Free symphonic poetry in the type of virtuoso instrumental concert soloist, he played extremely brilliant.

His extraordinary piano technique, his exceptional feeling of music and his recitation of Liszt's works dazzled the audience. The melodies were in his interpretation like a wonderful song, a very wide range of dynamics. The concert awoke deeply sublime lyricism, cheerful scherzo, dramatic and poetic wording.

The conductor beautifully led the soloist with the orchestra as a strong, warm partner at his side. The audience appreciated the interpretation with thunderous "Bravo"-calls and huge applause.

The introverted pianist giving a humble impression towards his colleagues and listeners on stage played an encore with works by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Of the partitas for solo violin No.3 in E-Major, he chose the first movement in an arrangement for piano by Sergei Rachmaninov and presented it extremely virtuosly.

The program culminated in Tchaikovsky's heraldic Symphony no. 5 in e-Minor, Op. 64.

Manfred Honeck conducted the piece vigorously and gave the concert a fresh sentiment.

The conductor illuminated the composer's typical dynamic tension with the orchestra's soft and clear sound and a variety of colours in the instrumentation.

The enthusiastic audience demanded even two more encores. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra chose Peer Gynt for its final song: Morning Mood, suite no.1, op, 46 by Edvard Hagerup Grieg and a romantic waltz from the ballet "Sleeping Beauty", op. 66 by Pyotr Iliitch Tchaikovsky. The Wiener Festwochen concert was a huge success.

**Harmonie  
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