



“Jedes Kind dieser Welt hat ein Recht auf Zukunft!”

“Every child of this world has a right to a future”

Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg

Conductor: Björn Bus

WMC Kerkrade, Rodahal

Sunday 30th July 2017, 2.30 pm

Program

Eckhard Stromer (*1972)

Middle East Raid

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Syrinx

Soloist: Corinna Henger, Flute

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)

Pan und Syrinx arr. Jos van de Braak

Salvador Brotons (*1959)

Rebroll

1. War and defeat

José Suñer Oriola (*1964)

El jardín de las Hespérides

Program

In order to introduce our program, it is insufficient to simply list the works to be presented. As we intend to tread new territory with an integrally themed concert, the pieces of music should not stand alone, representing only what they stand for individually but rather, together, create pictures and awaken emotions.

The chosen works do not stand alone but rather interweave to clarify and underline an overall story. The pieces of music have been taken, to great extent, from another context. They are, however, ideally suited, through their musical depths and sound language, to allow listeners to let associations arise, pictures appear and emotions be awakened.

During conception of the project the wish arose to address a pressing topic of our current times. Thus, the story is to be told of children in need, who experience terrible things all over the world; children who are torn from their homes, who experience violence and poverty; children who must suffer homelessness, banishment and flight. The LBO was honored to be able to work together with the children's charity UNICEF while realizing this project that lies very close to our hearts.

The beginning of the themed concert is announced by Middle East Raid, a short piece for percussion instruments. The work, written by the Stuttgart percussionist and composer Eckhard Stromer, was commissioned by the LBO especially for this purpose. The strong rhythmical and percussive character channels the attention and focuses in on the subject matter.

Significantly softer notes follow with Claude Debussy's composition Syrinx for solo flute. The lyrical dreamy expression of the work (composed in 1913) conjures up a sorrowful story from Greek mythology. The title of the piece derives from the ancient myth, handed down by Ovid in his *Metamorphoses*, of the nymph, Syrinx. Fleeing from the god Pan, a faun, she is turned into reeds which Pan consequently crafts into a flute of seven notes and plays as a declaration of his desire for her.

Related to the same thematic material of Greek mythology, this atmosphere is taken up again in the composition *Pan und Syrinx* by the Danish composer Carl Nielsen. Pan's wild advances at the beautiful but shy

nymph Syrinx inspired Nielsen to uncommon sound-painting and long stretches of impressionist sound colors. The tone-poem for symphony orchestra (1918) spreads a wave of mythological tragedy over the audience, with flute and clarinet figures and a plaintive cor anglais solo. The low register of the solo flute at the beginning establishes a deliberate reference to Debussy's Syrinx. This transcription by Jos von de Braak was commissioned especially for this program by the LBO.

The first movement "war and defeat" of the work Rebroll (1982) by the Catalan composer Salvador Brotons for symphonic wind band describes a completely different atmosphere. Rebroll is the Catalan word for rebirth and the composer uses the work to process the return of the Spanish democracy in 1977 after nearly 40 years of dictatorship from General Francisco Franco.

The main work, *The Garden of the Hesperides*, by the Spanish composer José Suner Oriola completes the cycle with a further tale of Greek mythology. Subject matter is provided by one of the ancient Greek Heracles narratives about betrayal, violence and flight. The demigod Hercules is enslaved by the king Eurystheus as a penance for the murder of the latter's wife and children. Hercules must undergo a total of twelve superhuman labours, one of which is to steal the apples from the garden of the Hesperides. The work describes the beautiful and still far away garden of the goddess Hera. There stands a tree where golden apples grow with the promise of giving eternal youth.

The garden is guarded by three nymphs, the Hesperides, and Ladon, a hundred-headed dragon. When Hercules discovers the garden, after much journeying, he manages to convince the Titan Atlas to steal the apples for him by promising in future to carry the firmament in Atlas' place. Atlas is forced to deceive his daughters, the Hesperides, who are deeply saddened by this betrayal. Consequently, Atlas slays the dragon, Ladon, who dies with a many-voiced scream. The looted apples he brings to Hercules, who then breaks his promise and cunningly escapes.

Our cooperation with UNICEF

UNICEF is the children's charity of the United Nations (UN). UNICEF helps children in need all over the world by means of collecting donations. UNICEF cares especially for children who live in war zones or who are fleeing war in their countries. Every ninth child in the world grows up in an area of crisis. There are currently 60 million refugees worldwide. Every second refugee is a child or unaccompanied youth.

Furthermore, UNICEF helps children who have lost their homes and live in foreign refugee camps or those who have been affected by natural disasters. UNICEF helps the victims of the droughts in Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and northern Nigeria, for example. The tornados in Haiti or the earthquakes in Nepal also present many victims in need of aid.

UNICEF aids children who are victims of sexual assault and oppression. This includes children who are forced into labour or become child soldiers. Current projects with which UNICEF cares for children worldwide carry the names "Last Chance for a Childhood", "Childhood needs Peace" and "Children have Rights".

How does UNICEF help?

All of the above projects help children in need by providing:

- Medicine, first aid
- Clean drinking water
- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter (camps, basic shelter such as tents, huts)
- Psycho-social care
Social workers, teachers and psychologists help children to process their terrible experiences of war through well-aimed activities and games.
- Schools
Schools in war zones provide an oasis of safety for children. Organized daily routines offer the children orientation and open up perspectives for a better life. At school, they are allowed to be children again and find security.

The Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg

The LBO has been making its mark on the European wind band scene since 1978 and belongs to the most well-known and respected wind orchestras. The LBO was founded by the Concert Band Association of Baden-Württemberg (BVBW) in order to develop symphonic wind band music, find new ways to play original works for the genre and, at the same time, set an example (in terms of sound and also more generally) for other wind bands in the region. Numerous international prizes and CD productions document the extraordinary quality of the band.

The 85 musicians come from within and also beyond Baden-Württemberg's borders. On four intensive weekends each year, the band rehearses its upcoming concert program. The repertoire includes original compositions as well as transcriptions of classical works. Premieres of new works and performances in chamber music ensembles are also frequent elements of the program. Due to its high musical standards the orchestra has become one of the most sought-after addresses for highly-qualified and dedicated musicians.

In 2011, the band also won the 2nd International Symphonic Band Competition in the Berlin Philharmonie. In July 2015, the LBO represented Germany and Europe at the WASBE World Conference in San José California and undertook its biggest tour since the founding of the orchestra. In May 2016, the LBO achieved fourth place at the European Championship of Wind Orchestras in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Björn Bus

Björn Bus, was born in 1980 in Brunssum, in the southern part of the Netherlands, where his musical roots can be found. He began as a percussionist with the Harmonie Orkest Concordia Treebeek, before later taking up the trombone.

In 2004, Björn Bus completed his bachelor's degree in conducting with honors with Alex Schillings at the Musikhochschule in Groningen. The same year, he devoted himself to his studies as a trombonist with Harrie Ries at the music conservatory in Maastricht. During 2005 and 2006, he studied baroque trombone with Wim Becu at the Musikhochschule in Aachen. His master's degree in conducting, likewise with honors, was completed in 2010 with the internationally-renowned conductor Jan Cober at the conservatory in Maastricht.

However, Björn Bus' education did not end here. He attended a great many master classes in conducting, working with well-known personalities. His talent soon began to be noticed, and his participation in well-known conducting competitions brought him additional recognition. In 2005, he placed second at the EBBA (European Brass Band Association) competition in Groningen. At the WMC (World Music Contest) in Kerkrade in 2009, he won the bronze baton, working together with 'De Marinierskapel der Koninklijke Marine'.

Currently Björn Bus conducts the following bands: Band of the Dutch Customs, Landesblasorchester Baden-Württemberg, Windband St. Joseph Sittard, Royal Windband of Horst, Windband St. Jozef Kaalheide and the State Symphonic Youth Band of Limburg. In addition, he also leads the professional wind ensemble Helicon.

Björn Bus often works together with well-known national and international bands. He is a sought-after guest conductor with the Rundfunk Blasorchester Leipzig, the Koninklijke Militaire Kapel 'Johan Willem Friso', the Banda Municipal Barcelona and the Symphonic Wind Band of the Conservatorium in Maastricht. He is actively involved in conducting master classes and workshops, and is frequently invited to act as an adjudicator in various windband competitions.

www.bjornbus.nl

Our next concerts

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| 28.10.17 | Concert in 88255 Baienfurt, Germany |
| 29.10.17 | Concert in 72469 Heinstetten, Germany |
| 18.11.17 | Concert in 72581 Dettingen/Erms, Germany |
| 19.11.17 | BVBW Jubilee Concert in 73207 Plochingen, Germany |

The LBO Blog

What started out as a travel blog for the California tour in July 2015 has become something of an institution in terms of the LBO's publicity and social-media work. The LBO blog contains musician's personal reports about their experiences of orchestral life, allow a peek into their preparations and write about eventful rehearsal and concert weekends. All the details and a look behind the scenes at the LBO's preparations and contest participation for the WMC in Kerkrade can be found on the blog. The blog can be found at:

blog.landesblasorchester.de

The LBO on Facebook

Our fan page on Facebook is becoming increasingly popular. Over 1.300 fans follow all activities surrounding the orchestra. If you are interested in

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- The newest press releases and reports
- Upcoming concert dates
- Up-to-date program notes
- A peek "behind the scenes"
- Everything to do with symphonic wind music

then you are, alongside many other musicians, conductors, composers and music-lovers in the right place!

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