

Press release – 8th February 2019

The United Nations Orchestra is reinventing itself to become the Orchestre des Nations

**A new name that highlights a new aspiration:
to be one of the best amateur orchestras in the world**

Created in 2011, the United Nations Orchestra has become a symbol of intercultural exchange. Reflecting the spirit and values of the United Nations, this orchestra aims to combine symphonic music with a humanitarian approach and to make classical music accessible to as many people as possible.

After 8 years and more than 50 concerts, the orchestra will henceforth be called the Orchestre des Nations. It aims to broaden its mission of exchange and to help an ever-increasing and multigenerational audience discover the masterpieces of classical symphonic music. The Orchestre des Nations is also becoming a foundation; as such, it is able to bring to life a new aspiration: to broaden its activities in favour of the least fortunate.

The musical direction of the Orchestre des Nations will continue to be led by Antoine Marguier, founder of the project, and the honorary presidency will still be held by Mr Michael Møller, director general of the United Nations Office in Geneva.

The inaugural concert of the Orchestre des Nations will be held on Friday March 15, 2019, 8.00 pm, at Victoria Hall in Geneva, in partnership with Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The soloist of the evening will be the cellist Gautier Capuçon.

An orchestra of high-level amateurs...

The Orchestre des Nations brings together high-level amateur musicians. Originating from all continents, they all pursued musical studies before moving towards different career paths. With exceptional musical guidance, the Orchestre des Nations allows these musicians to realise their dream: to play at a professional level, while always giving their best.

...led by an internationally renowned conductor

An internationally known professional conductor, Antoine Marguier decided, in 2011, to use his experience to work towards a new challenge: to create the best amateur orchestra in the world.

Thanks to the meticulous work of training and building up the orchestra, it has produced performances of exceptional quality and can boast of having attracted some of the greatest soloists, such as Maxim Vengerov, Khatia Buniatishvili, or Camille and Julie Berthollet. The orchestra has also organised prestigious concerts, such as the Ban Ki-moon tribute event, a Music for Peace tour in South Korea, and many concerts throughout Switzerland to celebrate its 15th anniversary as a United Nations member.

Many concerts have also been broadcast on the radio, in order to extend their public reach.

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At this exceptional evening under the baton of [Antoine Manguier](#), three classical music masterpieces will be presented: the Egmont Overture by Ludwig van Beethoven, the Cello Concerto by Camille Saint-Saëns, as well as the emblematic New World Symphony by Antonin Dvořák.

Tickets are already available on the Orchestre des Nations website: www.orchestredesnations.com.

RSF strives for a world in which all people benefit from information that enable them to be aware of and fully comprehend the challenges in the world and their environment and to form their own opinion. RSF promotes the freedom, pluralism and independence of journalism, in particular by coming to the defence of those who embody these ideals.

Part of the proceeds from this concert will go to RSF's Support and solidarity Fund for persecuted or endangered journalists and other persons active in the field of information.

The Orchestre des Nations is becoming a foundation

The creation of the Orchestre des Nations Foundation will allow the orchestra's administrative team to move from volunteering to professionalisation.

It is also the result of a new ambition: to expand the orchestra's activities in favour of the least fortunate, while remaining a symbol of the universal values of peace and friendship of the United Nations.

Thanks to this new status, the Orchestre des Nations will now be able to accept donations, namely through the Association des Amis de l'Orchestre des Nations. These donations will allow the orchestra to:

- perfect its artistic quality and continue to initiate musical collaborations with the most recognised artists;
- sponsor young soloists and take in musicians from every continent;
- spread the message of peace and support humanitarian organisations around the world.

Press relations

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