

## János Balázs performs three times at VeszprémFest

The Kossuth award-winning pianist is to step on stage with three programmes, accompanied by Erika Miklósa, Kátya Tompos, Béla Szakcsi Lakatos and József Lendvai as part of the VeszprémFest Classic concert series

**In 2021, VeszprémFest will welcome visitors for eight days, at three locations, and with the most exciting festival line-up of all time. The stars of international jazz, pop and world music will perform on the main stages set up in História Garden and the Castle, while world-famous artists of the Hungarian music scene will give concerts in the ruin garden of the Jesuit church, which serves as the third location of the premium music festival. The organisers have just published the programme for the latter venue.**

*VeszprémFest* 2021 will be held between 11 and 18 July. We still have to wait for the detailed programmes of the main stages in História Garden and the Castle, among the festival's three locations, but the performers of the *VeszprémFest Classic* concert series at the third location, the ruin garden of the Jesuit church, have already been announced by the organisers.

Between 16 and 18 July the audience can see three extraordinary productions.

- Opening the series, *Erika Miklósa* – the artist with the most performances in the history of VeszprémFest – and *János Balázs* will give a concert on 16 July entitled ***ZongOpera***.
- On 17 July, *Béla Szakcsi Lakatos* – who was among the performers of the first festival in 2004 – will take to the stage alongside *János Balázs* and *József Lendvai* with ***Paganini+***.
- On 18 July the audience can enjoy the soirée of *Kátya Tompos* and *János Balázs* entitled ***Cziffra Café*** as the closing act of VeszprémFest Classic.

The performances of the VeszprémFest Classic concert series are organised jointly by *Cziffra Festival* and VeszprémFest.

### **ZongOpera**

**Erika Miklósa and János Balázs**

*16 July 2021, 18:30, Veszprém, Jesuit Churchyard, venue in event of rain: Hangvilla, Veszprém*

It was three years ago that Erika Miklósa and János Balázs appeared together in front of the audience seeking a common voice belonging to both of their respective musical areas: opera and piano literature. These two worlds and the two performers found each other in a very natural manner, as both opera and piano art were at their zeniths in the romantic era and were revived in the last century. Both artists want the audience to feel the musical freedom and the joy that the audiences of Mozart, Verdi and Liszt, and even György Cziffra, were able to experience. The coloratura soprano singer – who last year was elected to the Immortals'

Society – and her Kossuth award-winning pianist partner compile their programme from arias, popular songs and virtuosic arrangements without genre constraints.

#### **Paganini +**

##### **János Balázs, József Lendvay and Béla Szakcsi Lakatos**

*17 July 2021, 18:30, Veszprém, Jesuit Churchyard, venue in event of rain: Hangvilla, Veszprém*

Ferenc Liszt had already been a concert player for more than ten years when he first heard Niccolò Paganini play in Paris in 1832, and this experience reshaped his thoughts on music. “What a man, what a violin, what an artist! Heavens! What sufferings, what misery, what tortures in those four strings!”, he wrote in a letter. In the joint **Paganini+ soirée** of Cziffra Festival and VeszprémFest, János Balázs plays Liszt etudes, Béla Szakcsi Lakatos improvises and **József Lendvay** gives a virtuosic performance of the original compositions of Paganini. The speciality of this programme is that – in a very unconventional manner – it presents the innovation of Paganini’s oeuvre over several centuries: the audience of the Memorial Year can listen to his masterpieces in their original version, in a Liszt-arrangement and in a jazz arrangement.

#### **Cziffra Café**

##### **Soirée of Erika Miklósa and János Balázs**

*18 July 2021, 18:30, Veszprém, Jesuit Churchyard, venue in event of rain: Hangvilla, Veszprém*

There is a small spot in a dark alley that no one is aware of, but it is known to all. Life starts here when the sun sets, and it closes when the world itself comes to an end. So many songs – a few snapshots of the customers addicted to rapture: young lovers and old bohemians, naive dreamers and sensual criminals, artists and cemented regulars. Our magical descent is guided by Kátya Tompos, the actress with a thousand faces, and János Balázs, Kossuth award-winning pianist, who are comfortable in all genres, whether it be chansons or classical music.

Ticket: [veszpremfest.jegy.hu](http://veszpremfest.jegy.hu)