

VeszprémFest 2023: Alvaro Soler, Mariza, Anna Netrebko, Joss Stone, Norah Jones, Andrea Rost are coming

VeszprémFest turns 20 years old in 2023. The premium music festival with a history stretching back two decades is celebrating with its most diverse programme ever, as a featured music event of the Veszprém-Balaton 2023 European Capital of Culture programme. Between 12 and 16 July, Alvaro Soler, Mariza, Anna Netrebko and Yusif Eyvazov, Joss Stone, and Norah Jones will give concerts on the main stage in the História Garden, while Andrea Rost will perform on four days with four different productions in the Jesuit Churchyard.

Two venues, five days, seven star performers, and the twentieth year as one of the world's quality music festivals. In 2023, **VeszprémFest** is celebrating its two-decade-long history with exciting performances at its unique concert venues. The programme of the jubilee year was published at a press conference in the Budapest Music Center.

The event was attended by **Zoltán Mészáros**, managing director of VeszprémFest, **Alíz Markovits**, CEO of 2023 Veszprém-Balaton Zrt., **Andrea Rost**, Hungarian opera singer, merited artist of Hungary, recipient of Kossuth, Prima Primissima and Liszt Ferenc awards, lifelong member of the Immortals' Society, **Péter Ovádi**, Member of Parliament, **Gyula Porga**, mayor of Veszprém and **Dr. Tibor Navracsics**, Minister for Regional Development.

On 12 July, Alvaro Soler, one of today's most popular young Latin singers will open VeszprémFest 2023 at the História Garden. The singer became popular in 2015 with his song El mismo sol. The song was a huge success across Europe, in Latin America, as well as in Mexico. The debut song has a special bilingual, Spanish-English version too, which was recorded in collaboration with Jennifer Lopez. In 2016, he topped the charts with his song Sofia, which was released on the international version of his debut album. He has released three studio albums in total: Eterno Agosto in 2015, Mar de Colores in 2018, and Magia in 2021.

On 13 July, fado superstar Mariza will be performing in the História Garden. The 48-year-old Portuguese-Mozambican artist is currently considered one of the greatest ambassadors of Portuguese culture; she is not only an excellent fado singer, but also a diva of the world stage. Her unique music is rooted in fado, but in addition to classical and contemporary pieces her repertoire comprises the morna music of Cape Verde, as well as Brazilian and Spanish classical tunes. She burst onto the world music stage in 2001, since when she has performed in almost all of the major venues around the world, playing music with legends such as Gilberto Gil, Lenny Kravitz and even Sting. She has been nominated for several Latin Grammy Awards, while BBC Radio 3 has recognised her talent by giving her the Best European Artist in World Music award three times.

On 14 July, the leading prima donna of the 21st century, **Anna Netrebko**, a classic soprano, will step onto the stage as the star performer of a gala event compiled mostly from Verdi operas. The performance will include pieces from Aida, Nabucco, Rigoletto, The Troubadour and The Force of Destiny. Netrebko is currently one of the most popular opera artists in the world. During her career starting in 1994, she performed at all the major sacred places of the genre, and she was the first artist of classical music who was chosen as one of the world's 100 most influential people by Time. Her husband, the Azerbaijani tenor **Yusif Eyvazov**, will also take to the stage at the História Garden; he will be accompanied by the Hungarian State Opera conducted by Michelangelo Mazza.

On 15 July, five years after her concert of resounding success in Veszprém, **Joss Stone** will be a guest of the festival with her show "20 Years of Soul". A Grammy and Brit Award winning singer, she is characterised by a unique music style inspired by soul, R&B, reggae, world music and hip-hop. She has worked together with superstars such as James Brown, Herbie Hancock, Stevie Wonder, Sting, Mick Jagger, Robbie Williams and Rod Stewart, but has also collaborated on the albums of Jeff Beck and Ringo Starr. Stone celebrates 20 years in the music business in 2023. On this occasion she is going on tour in Europe, and gracing a few featured summer festivals with her presence. As part of this she will be attending VeszprémFest too, where in addition to songs from her latest album, she will perform some of her greatest hits in the História Garden.

On 16 July, Norah Jones will be performing in the História Garden. She has never been to Hungary before, and will perform her first concert ever in Hungary in Veszprém. A singer with Indian roots, she was practically born for music: her father is Ravi Shankar, a three-time Grammy winner, Indian sitar player and composer, while her

mother is Sue Jones, a concert producer in New York. She became known worldwide in 2002 with her album *Come Away With Me* when she was just 23 years old. Her album peppered with elements of pop, soul, folk and country has sold 20 million copies worldwide. She released 17 solo albums in total, the last one in 2021, when she released her concert album *'Till We Meet Again*. Norah Jones' exceptionally successful music career stands at 50 million sold records, 9 Grammy Awards, and 6 billion song downloads.

In parallel with the main stage concerts announced in the História Garden, every day between 12 and 15 July the audience can see a special Andrea Rost performance at an exclusive festival concert venue in the Jesuit Churchyard. The Kossuth, Prima Primissima and Liszt Ferenc award-winning Hungarian opera singer, merited artist of Hungary and eternal member of the Immortals' Society invites you on an exciting musical adventure with her friends, peers and pupils.

On **12 July, at the concert of Andrea Rost and cimbalom player Miklós Lukács**, the festival goers can witness the special musical collaboration of two extraordinary artists. From Handel to the Portuguese fado, from Erkel to Hungarian folk songs, the world-renowned opera singer and Hungary's most virtuoso cimbalom artist will welcome guests who are open to a crossover with musical surprises and further guests during the evening's show.

On **13 July, the pupils of Andrea Rost's master class** will take to the stage to perform piano parts of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. The participants of the PályáStart Masterclass, organised by the Andrea Rost Art Foundation, introduced the young, staged and fresh version of the opera excerpts for the first time at their closing concert at the Hungarian Liszt Academy.

On **14 July**, the audience can see her performance **Andrea Rost and guest – The diva and Men - arias and theatre monologues**. This amusing production, written by Attila Lőrinczy, will feature six popular arias sung by Andrea Rost accompanied by the piano – from Mozart to Lehar, and from Verdi to Ferenc Erkel. Between the arias, the artist's actor partner will present the six typical male characters of the opera world with short dialogues and monologues: the manager, the critic, the tenor partner, the director, the conductor, and the fan. A collaboration between the Summer Theatre in Szentendre and the Andrea Rost Art Foundation.

On **15 July, Andrea Rost and the Budapest Hot Jazz Band** will perform their show **Dalok a lányszobámból (Songs from my childhood bedroom)**. The globetrotting diva will this time experiment with a lighter genre and perform formative songs from her childhood and youth. Among others, there will be songs from Pál Széchy and Sarolta Zalatnay, but the great hits of Marlene Dietrich, Judy Garland or Hanna Honthy will also be performed – all of which accompanied by the Kossuth award-winning Hot Jazz Band led by Tamás Bényei.