



THE CELEBRATED CONDUCTOR DANIEL BARENBOIM TO VISIT INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION FESTIVAL GOLDEN PRAGUE

Press report

Prague 20th March 2006 – The celebrated conductor Daniel Barenboim has accepted an invitation by the organizer of Golden Prague festival to take part in the screening of the programme produced by Euroarts Music International „Knowledge is the Beginning. The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra” and to meet with the audience afterwards.

The project will take place within the framework of the 43rd International Television Festival Golden Prague on 1 May 2006 at 12.30 in the North Hall at Prague Congress Centre www.kcp.cz. The film tells the story of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra founded by Daniel Barenboim in the summer of 1999. It records the first performance in Arabic countries of the orchestra consisting of young Arab, Palestinian and Jewish musicians.

“For many years, conductor and pianist Daniel Barenboim has worked towards reconciling Arabs and Israelis. Based on the notion that “music is the language of peace,” Barenboim and comparative literature professor Edward Said brought together Arab and Israeli musicians, along with a handful of German artists, to perform in Weimar on the 250th anniversary of the birth of Goethe.” says Tomáš Šimerda, director of Golden Prague.

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, a name derived from a collection of poems by Goethe, today embraces eighty Arab and Israeli musicians aged thirteen to twenty-six. Director Paul Smaczny has followed the orchestra since its inception. The film chronicles all five summer workshops in Weimar and Seville, Barenboim's visit to Ramallah and Jerusalem in May 2004 - during which he received the prestigious Wolf Prize at the Knesset-as well as the celebrated concert in Geneva and highlights of the 2005 European tour.

International Television Festival Golden Prague organized by Czech Television will take place from 29 April to 4 May in the Prague Congress Centre. Since its inception the festival has made its name as the most important television festival dedicated to music on the screen and it is one of the world's oldest and most renowned television festivals. It is focused on competitions of television programmes treating classical music, dance, jazz and world music. According to the festival's director, Tomáš Šimerda, Golden Prague is the most respected and most important festival in this field of TV creation, which is evidenced by the growing number of projects submitted every year.

This year, the competition section of Golden Prague consists of four categories: music or dance programmes made for television, music or dance programmes adapted for television, music or dance documentaries and recordings of live concerts or theatrical performances. Two international juries – the main jury and the student jury – will be judging the competing programmes. The festival is freely open to the public free of charge.

More information at www.ceskatelevize.cz/goldenprague