**PRESS RELEASE**

**Hungarian spirit and symphonic verve salutes China along a six concert tour in October, celebrating establishment of diplomatic relations 70 years ago. *Concerto Budapest Symphony Orchestra* headed by world famous violinist and conductor *András Keller* and  soprano superstar *Angela Gheorghiu* are among the main attractions of the 21st China Shanghai International Arts Festival**

**András Keller** world famous Hungarian violinist, conductor, founder of legendary Keller String Quartet, and his **Concerto Budapest Symphony Orchestra**  arrives to Asia with a vast arc of European music of 200 years spanning from Ferenc Liszt's grandiose Symphonic poem Les Preludes via Tchaikovsky's Symphonic fantasy Francesca da Rimini to Dvorák's monumental 9th, "New World" Symphony. After the tour launches in *Bangkok's International Festival of Dance and Music* (13th of October), the musicians head to *Fujian Grand Theatre* (15th of October) and then to *Shanghai International Arts Festival'*s *Yangpu Forest park and Urban Lawn Music Plaza*  (18th and 20th of October), concluding their journey with a concert in *Ningbo* (21st of October) and *Zhongshan* on 23 October. The two special concerts with Romanian **Angela Gheorghiu**, one of the greatest opera singers of our times will be a unique experience for the audience at Shanghai 's Yangpu Forest Park  and in Ningbo performing Puccini, Bizet, Rossini, Glinka, Massenet and Mozart arias.

Yet undoubtedly *Béla Bartók*'s Concerto for Orchestra lies in the centre of the tour: Bartók's very Hungarian and deeply universal late symphony will certainly be a rare experience performed by Concerto Budapest, especially famed for its interpretations of Bartók, Kurtág, Ligeti, and XX. century classical music.

As Maestro Keller says: "The wonder of Bartók is that, through folk music, he discovered those energies of the earth that allow him to address that ancient, elementary side of humanity. Only few are capable of this. The fact of how Bartók transplanted folk music roots into the history of Western composed music is a totally unique phenomena. Our Chinese and Thai audiences will encounter a European sound, and a European attitude to aesthetics and to ethics. I also expect many concertgoers there will be surprised to see so many youngsters in a strong professional orchestra. We have to build bridges between human beings, between musicians, between sounds. I believe listening to music helps us learn that unity is all-important. We do not offer sleepy comfort, but I am certain that the public in Asia will hear and appreciate this element of exploration and of creating music in the moment, which is our main aim. After our very successful joint Asia tour with Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica in 2017, now we are really excited to be the first Hungarian symphonic orchestra performing at Bangkok's International Festival since 2005, and really honored to be one of the highlights of the 21st China Shanghai International Arts Festival with Angela Gheorghiu. We are also here to avow the growing and powerful role of China in nurturing classical music nowadays.”

Asia Tour 2019 image film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRHMV7FpFbM&feature=youtu.be>

More Information: <https://www.concertobudapest.hu/asia-tour-2019>

Special interviews

with Angela Gheorghiu and András Keller prior to arrangements at the venues. Please contact:  Imre Szabo-Stein, +36309226567, or at clockwise@clockwisepro.com

[**https://www.linkedin.com/in/imre-szab%C3%B3-stein-804486b3/**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/imre-szab%C3%B3-stein-804486b3/)

**Further Background**

Adventurers of classical music

**Concert Budapest Symphony Orchestra** Image film:

<https://www.concertobudapest.hu/v/concerto-budapest-symphony-orchestra---image-film/>

Since 2007 the Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the orchestra has been **András Keller** <http://www.concertobudapest.hu/andras-keller--/andras-keller>, the world-renowned Hungarian violinist, founder of Keller Quartet, <http://www.concertobudapest.hu/andras-keller--/quartet-keller> . Professor of Violin at London’s Guildhall School of Music. Under his leadership from 2007, the orchestra, especially famed for its interpretations of Bartók, Kurtág and Ligeti has acquired an overwhelming, ever expanding classical repertoire. Highly acclaimed soloists are frequent guests of the orchestra, and include Gidon Kremer, Krzysztof Penderecki, Boris Berezovsky, Heinz Holliger, Angela Hewitt, Isabelle Faust, Steven Isserlis and Evgeni Koroliov and great many others. The honorary president of the orchestra is **György Kurtág**.

Concerto Budapest is one of Hungary’s oldest ensembles with more than 100 years of history, <http://www.concertobudapest.hu/orchestra/about-us> and is evidently one of the most productive Hungarian orchestras: has more than 80 concerts a year with 55 different concert programmes and is expanding its repertoire with more than 25 new pieces a year.

**András Keller** has enjoyed a varied career as soloist, concertmaster and chamber musician at the highest international level. He is has been rewarded with more than 70 international prizes, and his Bartok Complete String Quartets with Keller Quartet is in the Top 50 recordings of all times. He is the recipient of the Premio Franco Abbiati, Liszt Prize, and Bartók-Pásztory Prize, he was named an Artist of Merit of Hungary and was also nominated for the United Kingdom’s Royal Philharmonic Society Award. His recordings have been awarded the Caecilia Prix (BE), Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, Edison Award (NL), Grand Prix de l’Académie Charles Cros (FR), MIDEM Classical Award (FR), Gramophon Award (UK) and Record Academy Award (JP).

**Angela Gheorghiu**, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Gheorghiu>

Since her professional debut in 1990, she has performed in leading roles of several operas at New York's [Metropolitan Opera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_Opera), London's [Royal Opera House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Opera_House), the [Vienna State Opera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna_State_Opera), Milan's [La Scala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Scala), and many other opera houses in Europe and the United States. She has a substantial discography primarily with [EMI Classics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EMI_Classics) and [Decca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decca_Records) and is especially known for her performances in the operas of [Puccini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giacomo_Puccini).