

WORLD ORCHESTRA FOR PEACE
SOLTI
GERGIEV
THE FIRST TEN YEARS 1995 - 2005

Following the worldwide success of the Credit Suisse Tour in 2005, Valery Gergiev and I began work towards three concerts which would remember the World Orchestra for Peace's Founder, Sir Georg Solti, on the 10th anniversary of his death in 1997. On the exact date (5th September) the players from over 70 orchestras and 40 countries arrived in Rotterdam to begin rehearsals at the De Doelen hall and on 8th September, in the gracious presence of HM Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, gave the opening concert of the 2007 Gergiev Festival there. On 10th September, we performed in Budapest, where Solti was born and is buried (next to Béla Bartók) and where we additionally dedicated the concert to the memory of two other great men who had died in the months immediately prior to the concert: Russell Johnson, the internationally renowned acoustician who helped to build the Palace of Arts in which the concert took place and Mikhail Rudyak, the General Director of Ingeokom, whose sponsorship made possible that concert. Finally, on '9/11' we played a concert in the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, under the personal patronage of José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission and generously supported by Fortis Bank, Solvay Group and the Belgian National Lottery. To all of these, to our other loyal sponsors who again supported us, Ermenegildo Zegna and Yoko Nagae Ceschina, to our promoting organisations and to Meyer Sound, whose sponsorship made possible this recording, I express my personal gratitude and that of all the musicians who took part.

Charles Kaye Director, World Orchestra for Peace

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