



press release

The Esplanade Co Ltd 1 Esplanade Drive Singapore 038981
Tel (65) 6828 8222 Fax (65) 6337 3633
www.esplanade.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Esplanade to present the Berliner Philharmoniker with Sir Simon Rattle

SINGAPORE, 20 May 2010 – Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay will present the Berliner Philharmoniker under the direction of prominent English chief conductor Sir Simon Rattle for two evenings on 23 and 24 November 2010 at the Esplanade Concert Hall under its *Classics* series. These concerts mark the first time the prestigious Berliner Philharmoniker is presented in Singapore.

Said Mr JP Nathan, Director of Programming, The Esplanade Co. Ltd: “The great degree of autonomy, virtuosity and sensitivity from the musicians contributes to the highest possible standards of music-making. This unprecedented perfection is the hallmark of the Berliner Philharmoniker and will inspire our musicians and audiences.”

On 23 and 24 November, the Berliner Philharmoniker under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle will present two evenings of orchestral works featuring the music of Haydn, Brahms, Mahler, Rachmaninov and Berg. There will be a different line-up each evening.

Knighted by the Queen of England in 1994 for his contribution to the arts, Sir Simon Rattle led one of England's leading orchestras, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, from 1980 to 1998. He also collaborated with noted orchestras such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic, and has produced more than 60 recordings with these orchestras under the EMI label. Before being appointed artistic director and chief conductor of the orchestra, Sir Simon Rattle had already collaborated with the Berliner Philharmoniker over a period of 15

years. Since assuming his post in September 2002, he has continued to uphold a tradition of excellence while expanding the orchestra's cultural mission by developing projects designed to bring music and music education to the widest possible audiences. This earned him the Comenius Prize in 2004, the Schiller Special Prize in 2005 and the Urania Medal in 2007 for his commitment to music education. He will remain chief conductor of the orchestra until 2018.

Voted the world's number two orchestra by international music magazine *Gramophone* in 2008, the orchestra was founded in 1882 by 54 musicians and named Frühere Bilsesche Kapelle. It was not until 1887 that they were named the Berliner Philharmonisches Orchester under the management of Berlin concert agent Hermann Wolff who sought out the best conductors of that day for the musicians. Since its formation, the Berliner Philharmoniker has been directed by some of the world's finest conductors, most notably Hans on Bülow, Wilhelm Furtwängler, Herbert on Karajan and Claudio Abbado. Today, the orchestra consists of 125 musicians from 18 different nationalities.

Tickets go on sale on 22 May and are available at Esplanade's Box Office and all SISTIC outlets.

ANNEX

Esplanade Presents
Classics
Berliner Philharmoniker

23 & 24 Nov 2010, Tue & Wed
7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall

PROGRAMME

23 Nov 2010

Franz Joseph Haydn
Alban Berg
Johannes Brahms

Symphony No. 99 in E-flat major (Hob. 1/99)
Three Pieces for Orchestra Op. 6 (1929 edition)
Symphony No. 2 in D major Op. 73

24 Nov 2010

Sergei Rachmaninov
Gustav Mahler

Symphonic Dances Op. 45
Symphony No. 1 in D Major

(100mins, including 20min intermission)

The famous **Berliner Philharmoniker** (Berlin Philharmonic), led by its Chief Conductor **Sir Simon Rattle**, makes its long-awaited debut in Singapore with two not-to-be-missed concerts at Esplanade Concert Hall.

Regarded by many as the world's finest symphony orchestra, its list of principal conductors over the years reads like a Who's Who of musical history since it was founded in 1882. It was Karajan who made the orchestra a household name all around the world, with its numerous recordings on the Deutsche Grammophon label. His successors Claudio Abbado and now Sir Simon Rattle have continued the orchestra's tradition of excellence and greatness.

The British conductor Sir Simon Rattle rose to prominence through his association with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and winning multiple Gramophone Awards. He was awarded a CBE in 1987 and made a Knight Bachelor in 1994. He began his tenure with the Berliner Philharmoniker in 2002, and has been voted by its musicians to extend his contract till 2018.

For its Singapore concerts, the orchestra will perform works by Mahler, Rachmaninov, Haydn, Berg and Brahms.

\$680, \$500, \$350, \$250, \$150*, \$80**

Gallery seats: \$280

Student concessions (limited): \$75*, \$40**

NSF and senior citizen concessions (limited): \$105*, \$56*

About Esplanade – Theatres On The Bay

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is one of the world's busiest arts centres, officially opened on 12 October 2002. This architectural icon with its distinctive twin shells is sited within Singapore's civic district, just by Marina Bay at the mouth of the Singapore River.

Esplanade aims to be a performing arts centre for everyone, and its programmes cater to its diverse audiences. Its programme line-up spans all genres to encompass music, dance, theatre and visual arts, with a special focus on Asian culture.

Esplanade houses world-class performance spaces, supported by a comprehensive range of professional support facilities and services. Its two main venues are the 1,600-seat Concert Hall, with acoustics by the late Russell Johnson of ARTEC Consultants, and the 2,000-seat theatre, an adaptation of traditional European opera houses in horseshoe form.

In the past year, Esplanade has welcomed over seven million visitors and hosted over 2,400 performances.

~ End ~

Issued by The Esplanade Co Ltd.

For more information, please contact:

Kelly Tan
Senior Manager
Programme Marketing
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Tel: 6828 8317
Email: tkelly@esplanade.com

Or

Gina Koh
Executive
Corporate Communications & Public Affairs
The Esplanade Co Ltd
Tel: 6828 8332
Email: kgina@esplanade.com