



## **"European Union Youth Orchestra" (EUYO) moves residence to Grafenegg**

**Eichtinger/Sanders/Marcus/Stein: "Great gain for Austria's cultural landscape. Cooperation to be expanded. New project Music Hub Austria launched".**

In today's press conference at Palais Niederösterreich in Vienna, a milestone for Austria's cultural landscape was announced. The support of the Federal Government and the Province of Lower Austria made it possible to move the residence of the European Union Youth Orchestra (EUYO) to Lower Austria, Grafenegg.

"Grafenegg stands for the European idea and connects people and cultures. Grafenegg has become a beacon of Lower Austria's cultural landscape, with national and international appeal. It is therefore all the more gratifying that we are expanding our long-standing cooperation with the EUYO and that the orchestra is moving to Lower Austria. The EUYO is the figurehead for the European idea and an important cultural institution for young people," said Martin Eichtinger, member of the Government of Lower Austria, responsible for international relations.

### **EUYO makes ideals of Europe tangible through music**

"We are delighted to be moving to Austria, and strengthening our ties with one of the most important and interesting festivals in Europe, a Festival that is renowned not only for artistic excellence, but also a sense of entrepreneurship and creative imagination. All of this – plus the fact that Grafenegg sits in the heart of Europe – provides a huge synergy between our two organisations, and makes Grafenegg a perfect partner for the EUYO," elaborates EUYO Board Co-Chair Martijn Sanders. He adds "As cultural ambassador for the EU for over 45 years, the EUYO is one of the very few (perhaps the only) arts institutions that exists to specifically uphold and make tangible the highest ideals of the EU through young people making music together across cultures and countries, and it is because Grafenegg so strongly supports these values that the move that we are announcing today has such meaning."



### **Collaboration between Grafenegg, Vienna and the EUYO expands**

A look at the orchestra's organic development over the past 13 years shows that Grafenegg in particular has become a valuable partner. "Thanks to the support of Grafenegg, Lower Austria and the Federal Republic of Austria, the new relationships announced today will drive the next phase of the EUYO's development, continuing the vision of the Orchestra's founders, but also enabling it to continue adding innovation to tradition, creating an inspiring programme for 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe that responds to changes in our society, and continuing our 45-year role as EU Cultural Ambassadors. I am sure that our new Music Hub Austria project will be a great success in Austria, and provide a model for Europe and beyond" said Secretary General of the EUYO Marshall Marcus.

### **EUYO as a symbol of the European Union**

The orchestra has at least one orchestra member from each EU country and is the only orchestra that physically auditions in all EU member states every year. They tour several times a year with excellent, internationally recognized and renowned conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Laureate Bernard Haitink, or Vasily Petrenko.

"They have outstanding young talent who continue to make great careers in the music world after their time with the EUYO," said Provincial Councillor Martin Eichinger, referring to performances throughout Europe such as at the Europe Festival in Berlin for the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome in 2007, the 100th anniversary World War 1 event at the Arc de Triomph, or the regular performances at the Europa Forum Wachau in Göttweig.

Recent awards include the Golden Prague International Television Festival Award for best-televised concert of 2022, and the "EU Cultural Brand of the Year" prize in 2020.



### **Approaching new projects with curiosity and a willingness to experiment**

"This new chapter in the shared history of EUYO and Grafenegg opens up new opportunities for fruitful exchanges, many profound moments and collective growth - both musically and personally. With their energy, curiosity, and eagerness to experiment, the young musicians of the EUYO are the ideal ambassadors for positive European integration; for listening, engaging, and cooperation, qualities that will carry Europe into the future," Grafenegg's managing director Philipp Stein is pleased to say, adding "We also look forward to the close collaboration with this indispensable, incomparable European cultural project next summer, and this time more than ever, for in the years to come we can welcome the EUYO as permanent part of the cultural landscape of Lower Austria"

### **The EUYO was founded in 1976**

The EUYO has British roots, the founders Joy and Lionel Bryer put the visionary idea of a youth orchestra into practice in 1976 when it was created following the unanimous vote of the European Parliament, and has been so important for the whole of Europe ever since. Due to the Brexit, the EUYO moved its headquarters to Ferrara in Italy. The move to Grafenegg, which has also been the orchestra's summer residence since 2009, is scheduled to take place this year.