



For the Attention of the Culture / News Department

Press Release

For immediate release

Globally Renowned Polish Composer, Krzysztof Penderecki, Receives Esteemed Abu Dhabi Festival Award

Five-time Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor presented with the 2018 Abu Dhabi Festival Award by the Festival Director on his 85th birthday

(Abu Dhabi, UAE: 25 November 2018): In line with its legacy of rewarding excellence and championing culture in all its forms, the Abu Dhabi Festival (ADF) yesterday paid tribute to the outstanding achievements of Polish composer and conductor, Krzysztof Penderecki, who was presented with the 2018 Abu Dhabi Festival Award. The award, in association with Chopard, recognises the cultural significance of his works, for which he has been hailed as “Poland’s greatest living composer” and has received several international awards, including five Grammys.

H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo, Founder of Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and Artistic Director of Abu Dhabi Festival said: “Krzysztof Penderecki is not only one of the most prolific and influential composers and maestros of all time, but a long-standing friend of the Abu Dhabi Festival, having captivated everyone who attended his performance in 2010. Over the past 50 years, his work has had an enormous influence on the global musical landscape and continues to shape the global musical culture of tomorrow. We are very honoured to recognise Penderecki as the recipient for the 2018 Abu Dhabi Festival Award for his timeless contribution to music.”

Upon receiving the award, **Krzysztof Penderecki** said: “Music has always been a part of my life; a part of me – and so to be awarded for my life’s work is an extreme delight and honour. The Abu Dhabi Festival is a prestigious platform that is shaping the Arab region’s cultural scene and to be recognised by their Abu Dhabi Festival Award for efforts in our shared goal of building cultural communication through music, through the arts and through song, is a high honour and a humbling recognition for which I would like to thank Her Excellency Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo for.”

Chopard Co-President and Artistic Director Caroline Scheufele said: “The Maison has a long-term partnership with the Abu Dhabi Festival and we are proud to award leading international figures like the composer and conductor, Mr. Krzysztof Penderecki. Chopard has always been supporting arts and music as we share the same values of passion, excellence and creation of emotions.”



Among Penderecki's many accolades are five Grammy Awards, the 1992 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition, the 1993 Prize of the International Music Council/UNESCO and the 2000 Cannes Award for "Living Composer of the Year."

Born in 1933 in Debica, Penderecki learned to play the piano and the violin as a child and began composing his first works at the age of eight. He became a member of the Royal Academy of Music in Dublin in 1995, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts in Munich in 1998. Furthermore, he became a member of Poland's Order of the White Eagle in 2005 and was made Commander of the Three Star Order in Riga, Latvia, in 2006.

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About Abu Dhabi Festival

Patron: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance

Founded in 2004, the Abu Dhabi Festival was held under the Patronage of the then Minister of Information and Culture (and now Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation) HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. This was followed from 2007 to 2011 with the Patronage of HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Today, the Festival is held under the patronage of HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance.

Each year, Abu Dhabi Festival brings audiences together to share unique experiences that testify to our shared humanity and the deep bonds we share. Always growing, always innovating, it brings the best of the world to Abu Dhabi and takes the very best of Abu Dhabi to the world.

The 15th Abu Dhabi Festival presents the cultural excellence of 30 countries and the creativity of over 200 Emiratis alongside more than 500 artists from the four corners of the globe. In keeping with its reputation for 'firsts', Abu Dhabi Festival 2018 presents 2 Festival debuts, 4 UAE debuts, 6 Arab world debuts and 3 world premieres. From music to theatre, literature and visual arts, this year's Festival continues to spread its arms across the UAE and the world. Beyond the national programme, audiences in Europe and beyond will experience new productions, concerts and exhibitions during the year, made possible by Abu Dhabi Festival.

For more information please visit our website at: www.abudhabifestival.ae

About the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation

Patron: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance

Founded in 1996, ADMAF is one of the oldest, not-for-profit cultural organisations in the Arabian Gulf. Pioneering new artistic practices, it seeks to deepen global cross-cultural dialogue and inspire a renewed interest in the creativity of the UAE and Arab world. Often in partnership with leading national and international institutions, it delivers multidisciplinary initiatives for people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities through the Abu Dhabi Festival, year-round youth platforms and community programmes.

For more information, please visit www.admaf.org