

Celebrating CEU Through Music

Music has played a vital and pivotal role in the history of politics, culture and society in Central and Eastern Europe. As Central European University celebrates its 25th anniversary, we offer a musical mirror of CEU's roots in Central Europe as well as its American origins. World-renowned conductor and CEU Board Chairman Leon Botstein leads the Budapest Philharmonic Society Orchestra, featuring Xheni Rroji on piano.

About the Program

Leo Weiner's *Toccata* is a Hungarian homage to the grand international aspiration of Western classical and concert music. Frederic Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 2* is one of the great works by a composer whose music and personality have become inextricably linked to the ideals and character of modern Polish nationalism. CEU President and Rector John Shattuck narrates an iconic work from the 1940s in America, Aaron Copland's setting of words by Abraham Lincoln. Few pieces of music so powerfully evoke the highest ethical aspirations of democracy. The *Sinfonietta*, Leos Janacek's thrilling musical experience, uses folk tunes, dances and marches to celebrate the birth of a new democratic nation, the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Program

Welcome

JOHN SHATTUCK / *President and Rector, CEU*

Opening Remarks

ANDRAS BATA / *Former Rector, Liszt Academy*

BUDAPEST PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

LEON BOTSTEIN / *Conductor*

XHENI RROJI / *Piano*

JOHN SHATTUCK / *Narrator*

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BACH / WEINER / *Toccata in C-major*

CHOPIN / *Piano Concerto No. 2*

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COPLAND / *Lincoln Portrait*

JANACEK / *Sinfonietta*



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THANK YOU / *Our sincere appreciation to Leon Botstein for lending his talent, to Georgette Ballance for her patronage, and to all of the musicians and the members of the CEU community who have made this celebratory concert possible.*

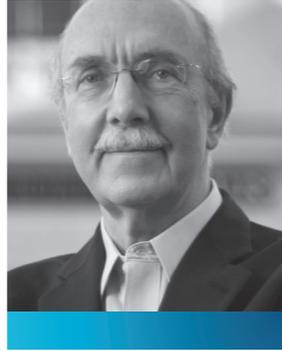


LEON BOTSTEIN / is music director of the American Symphony Orchestra and of The Orchestra Now, a pre-professional orchestra that had a triumphant debut season in 2015. He has been artistic co-director of Bard SummerScape and the Bard Music Festival since their creation, and president of Bard College since 1975. He was music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra from 2003–2011, and is now conductor laureate. He is also a frequent guest conductor with orchestras around the globe, has made numerous Grammy-nominated recordings, and is a prolific author and music historian. He is the editor of *The Musical Quarterly*, and has received many honors for his contributions to music. In 2018 he will become Artistic Director of the Grafenegg Academy in Austria.



XHËNI RROJI / is an Albanian-born classical concert pianist, collaborator, producer, and director who currently resides in New York City. An avid soloist and chamber musician, Rroji has performed at venues such as the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Steinway Hall, Salle Pleyel and the Palais des Congrès. In 2008, Rroji co-founded the Ossia Symphony Orchestra and The Ossia Chamber Players. Through the orchestra, she has led outreach

projects that help bring classical music to public high schools. Prior to living in New York, Rroji studied music in France through a George Soros scholarship for young artists. Rroji holds master's degrees from the Conservatoire National Regional Supérieur de Musique de Paris and the Manhattan School of Music.



JOHN SHATTUCK / an international legal scholar and human rights leader, became the fourth president and rector of Central European University in 2009. Before coming to CEU, he was CEO of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, Boston, and senior fellow at Tufts University. He served as assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor under President Clinton and as U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic. Prior to his government service, Shattuck was a vice-president at Harvard University. His career began at the American Civil Liberties Union. He is the author of *Freedom on Fire*, a study of the international response to genocide and crimes against humanity and *Rights of Privacy*.



BUDAPEST PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA / is Hungary's oldest functioning orchestra. It gave its first concert on November 20, 1853 under the baton of Ferenc Erkel, who went on to conduct the orchestra's next 60 concerts. The Philharmonic Society, created on the Viennese model, is an independent body of musicians from the National Theater, and later of the Opera House. The current chairman-conductor is Pinchas Steinberg, who was elected in 2014. Over the past 159 years (for almost 90 years as the country's only professional orchestra), the Philharmonic Orchestra has played a key role in Hungary's concert life. It has brought new compositions to the Hungarian public and also taken Hungarian music abroad.

A CELEBRATION of Music FROM CENTRAL EUROPE

CEU 25

June 25, 2016, 5 pm
Liszt Academy
Liszt Ferenc ter 8.
Budapest, Hungary