

# Mendelssohn & Friends

## A message of peace



Works from  
A. Bruckner  
A. Schönberg &  
F. Mendelssohn-  
Bartholdy

**LES** **ESSENCES**  
feat.  
**Western Balkans Youth Orchestra**

Artistic Direction

Önder Baloğlu, Violin  
& Desar Sulejmani, Piano

**MENDELSSOHN & FRIENDS**

*Violin, Artistic Direction*  
**ÖNDER BALOGLU**

**LES ESSENCES**

*Piano, Artistic Direction*  
**DESAR SULEJMANI**

**WESTERN BALKANS YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

18. OCTOBER 2024, 19:00	UNIVERSITY OF ARTS, TIRANA
19. OCTOBER 2024, 19:00	MIGJENI THEATER, SHKODRA
20. OCTOBER 2024, 19:00	MUSIC SCHOOL, TIVAT
22. OCTOBER 2024, 19:30	MUSIC SCHOOL, SARAJEVO
23. OCTOBER 2024, 19:30	EUROPE HOUSE, BELGRADE
25. OCTOBER 2024, 19:30	MACEDONIAN PHILHARMONIC, SKOPJE
26. OCTOBER 2024, 20:00	PALACE OF YOUTH AND SPORTS, PRISHTINA
29. OCTOBER 2024, 19:30	MATTHIAS JAKOBS CITY HALL, GLADBECK
02. NOVEMBER 2024, 19:00	KW HOTSPOT, KÖNIGSWINTER
03. NOVEMBER 2024, 11:00	MERCATORHALL, DUISBURG
06. NOVEMBER 2024, 19:00	REFORMATIONCHURCH, ESSEN
07. NOVEMBER 2024, 19:00	FRUCHTHALLE, KAISERSLAUTERN

LES ESSENCES feat. WESTERN BALKANS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

### **PROGRAM**

The program and order vary depending on the performance venue.  
You will receive detailed information in the moderation

#### **ANTON BRUCKNER (1824-1896)**

Adagio from the String Quintet (1879)

#### **FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY (1809-1947)**

Concerto for violin and piano in D minor (1823)

Önder Baloglu (Violin) & Desar Sulejmani (Piano)

Allegro

Adagio

Allegro molto

Chamber Symphony for string orchestra based on the String Octet Op. 20

(version by Desar Sulejmani, German premiere)

Allegro moderato ma con fuoco

Andante

Allegro leggierissimo

Presto

#### **ARNOLD SCHÖNBERG (1874-1951)**

Menuetts / Gavotte from Suite in the old style in G major (1934)

## MENDELSSOHN & FRIENDS

*Violin, Artistic Direction*  
**ÖNDER BALOGLU**



© Ulrike von Loeper

Önder Baloglu enjoys combining his love of chamber music and his profession as a concertmaster as the musical director of an orchestra from the podium. He performs not only with his chamber orchestra *Les essences*, which has been funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia since 2021, but also with the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn, the Duisburg Philharmonic and the Folkwang Chamber Orchestra. Önder Baloglu has performed as a soloist with the KlangVerwaltung Orchestra under the direction of Reinhard Goebel, the Bochum Symphony Orchestra, the Duisburg Philharmonic Orchestra and the Aachen Symphony Orchestra, among others. He has shared his passion for chamber music with musicians

such as Anja Lechner, Anastasia Kobekina, Harriet Krijgh und Fazıl Say. From 2013 to 2022, he was concertmaster with the Duisburg Philharmonic Orchestra and the Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf-Duisburg. As a guest concertmaster with numerous German, Turkish and international orchestras, he toured the world. During the lockdown in 2020, Baloglu, together with the Gedik Sanat Foundation, commissioned 24 Turkish composers from all over the world to compose one-minute miniatures for solo violin. The premiere of the “Unvoiced Diaries” project was streamed as part of the NOW! festival 2020 and could be experienced live on YouTube. Born in Adana, Turkey, his studies took him to the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen. Other important musical encounters with Vadim Gluzman, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Ivry Gitlis, Gordan Nikolic and Enoch zu Guttenberg enriched his artistic career. Önder Baloglu teaches at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague and at the Folkwang University of the Arts and performs on a violin by Anonio Gagnani from Livorno dating from 1779.

LES ESSENCES feat. WESTERN BALKANS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

## LES ESSENCES

Les essences is an international chamber orchestra that has developed from members of top-class chamber music ensembles and outstanding musicians from the surrounding orchestral landscape of North Rhine-Westphalia. Les essences has set itself the goal of taking a critical and courageous approach to the tradition-conscious performance practice of all eras. This is achieved through respectfully faithful and informed playing. Under the artistic-musical direction of the German-Turkish violinist Önder Baloglu, communication with one another becomes a tool that also enables the ensemble to interact as chamber music in larger ensembles. Les essences is not only in search of the essences of music, but also of the historical, socio-cultural and political realities of our society: this idea is the starting point for the musical concept. In 2021, Les essences, supported by the ensemble sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and Sparkasse Essen, presented an exciting three-year concept that reflects the most diverse stages and moods of human life. The concept aims to turn the entire city of Essen into a performance venue. The program within this framework includes well-known and unknown works, including very old and very young compositions that touch on different religions and cultures.

Les essences performs at the Mercatorhalle Duisburg, the Konzerthaus Dortmund, the Tonhalle Düsseldorf, the Herrenchiemsee Festival, the Musiquem Lleida in Spain, the CRR Istanbul, the "Focus on Harp" festival in Tel Aviv and cooperates with renowned guest artists such as the Chorwerk Ruhr, cellist Anja Lechner, cellist Anastasia Kobekina, conductor Reinhard Goebel, cabaret artist Maximilian Schafroth and pianist Fazıl Say.

## MUSICIANS

### **VIOLIN**

ÖNDER BALOGLU  
EZGI SU APAYDIN  
HANNAH KANDINSKY

BIANCA ADAMEK  
LAURA MUSKARE  
ISRAEL GUITERREZ

### **VIOLA**

IGNAZIO ALAYZA  
AINIS KASPERAVICIUS

**VIOLONCELLO**  
ANTONIO GERVILLA  
DIEGO HERNANDEZ

**KONTRABASS**  
FATIMA AGÜERO

## MENDELSSOHN & FRIENDS

*Piano, Artistic Direction*  
**DESAR SULEJMANI**



© Mimoza Veliu

Desar Sulejmani, pianist and conductor, has lived and worked in Germany for over 26 years. He has performed in many European countries, Asia and South Africa as a concert pianist, conductor and member of several chamber ensembles and studied piano (Prof. Till Engel), chamber music (Andreas Reiner & Jürgen Kußmaul) and conducting (David de Villiers) at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen and the Robert Schumann University of Music in Düsseldorf. Desar Sulejmani has also attended numerous master classes with Peter Feuchtwanger, Charles Spencer, Axel Bauni, Emille Cantor, Jürgen Kußmaul, Sir Roger Norrington, Sylvain Cambreling and Steven Sloane, and has performed as a conductor in Germany and abroad since 2003.

In addition to his concert appearances as a pianist, such as at the Berlin Konzerthaus, Sulejmani is also active as a teacher and gives master classes for young pianists, where he passes on his expertise and passion for piano playing. His career as a pianist is characterized by artistic depth and a constant striving for musical perfection, and Sulejmani, influenced by his upbringing in Albania, founded the peace-building initiative Western Balkans Youth Orchestra. In addition to the predominantly political aspect, it is important to the visionary to enable the young local musicians to receive further training at the level of Western European education. Sulejmani's vision for the Western Balkans Youth Orchestra is a long-term one. His aim is to create sustainable structures that will enable future generations of musicians to flourish in a harmonious environment of cooperation and exchange. His aim is to create an awareness of the shared cultural identity of the Balkan countries through the power of music, thereby contributing to stability and peace in the region.

LES ESSENCES feat. WESTERN BALKANS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

## WESTERN BALKANS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Founded in 2019, the WBYO project orchestra brings together young musicians from each of the six Western Balkan countries (ALB, BiH, RKS, MNE, NMK and SRB) in roughly equal numbers. They meet once or twice a year at different locations in the Western Balkans and in changing line-ups. At the beginning of each work phase, individual and group training sessions under the guidance of experienced orchestral musicians from the EU and the Western Balkans prepare the young musicians for their roles in the orchestra. And, of course, intensive rehearsals with the entire orchestra are at the heart of each work phase. After this preparation, the orchestra sets off for concerts in some or all of the WB6 countries and beyond - to make the success of this collaboration audible and tangible across borders! As different as their ethnic, national, religious and cultural backgrounds may be, through getting to know each other during intensive rehearsals, performing together as an ensemble on stage and touring together for several days, the young musicians merge into a single unit. a complete orchestra - a feat of cooperation and coordination at the highest level that is normally only achieved by highly qualified professionals in far more stable environments! And so the WBYO youngsters become top-class ambassadors of cooperation in a region still characterized by strife and discord.

If you would like to support the peacemaking work of the Western Balkans Youth Orchestra, we would be delighted to receive a donation to our support association ProWBYO e.V:

Teichwinkel 17  
52074 Aachen - Germany  
Email: [pro@wbyo.org](mailto:pro@wbyo.org)

Aachener Bank  
DE26 3906 0180 0164 3300 01

## MUSICIANS

### VIOLINE

ANDREJ BALAŽ (Serbia)  
HEIKO GIEL (Germany)  
KRISTINA ROKVIĆ (BiH/Serbia)

JELENA JOVOVIĆ (Montenegro)  
KRISTI MANECI (Albania)  
ADANUR TEZEL (Turkey)

### VIOLA

DILA CANDAS (Turkey)  
LEONA KONDATENKO (North Macedonia)

### VIOLONCELLO

EFE OGUL ÇAKAL (Turkey)  
MARIJA TADIĆ (Serbia)

### KONTRABASS

VIKTOR MINIĆ (Montenegro)

We would like to thank the Federal Foreign Office for the significant financial support that makes the implementation of our project possible.  
We would also like to thank our other sponsors:

**ENGAGEMENT  
GLOBAL**



Auswärtiges Amt



**Susanne Scholten  
Foundation**

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**ProWBYO**  
Förderverein für das  
Western Balkans Youth Orchestra  
e. V.

