

Press release

Tickets for the Birgit Nilsson Prize ceremony on sale June 3, 2014

Stockholm, Sweden, May 13, 2014

On April 9, 2014, Birgit Nilsson Foundation President Rutbert Reisch announced that the Birgit Nilsson Prize for 2014 will be awarded to the VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA at the Concert Hall in Stockholm on October 8, 2014. This award will be given in the presence of H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf and H.M. Queen Silvia. A limited amount of tickets will go on public sale on June 3, 2014 at 11:00 and will be sold via the Concert Hall's web site and ticket office.

The public who are able to secure these coveted tickets will experience the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Maestro Riccardo Muti, the 2011 Prize laureate. Please note that the tickets for previous ceremonies, in 2009 and 2011, sold out in just a few hours.

The entire Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra will be present to perform *Les Preludes* by Franz Liszt and the orchestral version of the Liebestod from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*. Vienna Philharmonic President Clemens Hellsberg will accept the award on the orchestra's behalf. The mistress of ceremonies will be Pia Lindström, daughter of renowned Swedish actress Ingrid Bergman.

The cost of available tickets will be between 350 and 700 SEK. The entire audience will be invited to a cocktail in the Stockholm Concert Hall following the ceremony. The attire for the occasion is "festive dress".

This is the third time that the Prize will be given. Birgit Nilsson personally chose the first laureate, Plácido Domingo, who received the award in 2009. In 2011, the second laureate, conductor Riccardo Muti, was selected by a distinguished international panel of classical music experts from the major countries where Birgit Nilsson was most active during her career.

The extraordinary Birgit Nilsson Prize of one million dollars, the largest given in the world of classical music, is awarded approximately every 3 years for outstanding achievements and major contributions to the field of opera/concert to a currently active singer (in the field of opera, concert, oratorio, or lieder); a currently active conductor (in the field of opera or concert); an institution with an outstanding record in opera or concert, such as an orchestra, a chorus, or an opera company (in the case of an opera company, specifically in recognition of an exceptional production that respects the spirit of the composer).

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Tickets can be bought at www.konserthuset.se

For background material on the Birgit Nilsson Prize, photos, video clips and TV material;
plus highlights of previous events www.birgitnilssonprize.org

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