

Welcoming remarks by H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay
on the occasion of the Salon d’Hiver, November 27, 2017
at the Permanent mission of Hungary to the United Nations

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to our „Salon d’Été”, the summer edition of our Salon series, devoted to „Dialogue Through Art and Music”. I started this Salon 2 years ago to bring us together, and show the power of art in communication, conveying messages and building bridges among us all. I am glad to see our dear colleagues, UN Ambassadors and other distinguished guests who are now regular visitors of our Salon events.

As you might remember from our previous events, this year, we celebrate the 135th anniversary of birth, and the 50th anniversary of passing away of **Zoltán Kodály**, an outstanding Hungarian composer and ethnomusicologist. Kodály has done remarkable work in discovering, recording and analyzing Hungarian folk music. He has also been a **composer**, and his music builds organically on the rich Hungarian folk heritage that he so faithfully collected for the future generations. Kodály is also the founder of an innovative method of **music education**, the so-called „**Kodály-method**”, based on folk music and music education from an early age. He described this approach, with the following words: „Every nation has folk songs that are especially appropriate for education. A selection of these songs will be the best curriculum for children to learn the foundations of music. Before understanding other peoples, we have to understand ourselves, and nothing is more suitable for this than folk songs. And learning other nations’ folk songs is the best way to get to know other nations, and make children know and like the classics of the past, present and future.” (1966). The “Kodály Method” is now used worldwide, and is inscribed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage since last year, recognizing its contribution to the universal preservation and dissemination of musical heritage.

As you may remember, our last Salon was about women, women in music. This time, we will focus on men, because men have a key role to play in women’s lives, in the family and our societies as well. The UN Women campaign “HeforShe” expresses well that for change to happen, men should be on board, when it comes to peacebuilding, gender equality and sharing of domestic care and work.

So tonight, we will present male characters that inspired composers, and we will also show the roles that men can play in the family, the society, and cultural life, through a variety of pieces

from different composers. We will start by **Joseph Haydn**, whose innovative work renewed music history. We will hear “Sonata No. 62 in E-flat major”. Then, we will enjoy a piece by **Franz Liszt**, composed in a series called “**Historical Hungarian Portraits**”. This piece will be about **Ferenc Deák**, a major figure of 19th century Hungarian history, who, after the Hungarian revolution and freedom fight against the Habsburg Empire, had the courage and wisdom of signing an agreement with Austria, which enabled the country to move forward and begin a prosperous half-a-century co-existence under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The next piece is by **Béla Bartók**, a 20th century world-renown Hungarian composer. Bartók composed “**Microcosm**” for his son, as a way to tell him, through music, about our universe. This piece is a wonderful example of what parents can give their children from their own talent and experience, and how they can bring up their children to admire and appreciate the world around them, including nature. We will hear several extracts from “Microcosm”. The last piece will be by **Zoltán Kodály**: his famous “**Dances of Marosszék**” shows how Kodály brought alive the “pure source”, that is, folk music, and created something everlasting.

Tonight, we have the pleasure to welcome again Imre Pátkai, who will be interpreting the works of Haydn, Liszt, Bartók and Kodály. **Imre Pátkai** has been playing and attending international music programs since a very young age. He graduated at the Liszt Academy of Music, and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas, where he is currently teaching. Mr. Pátkai has given concerts with several Hungarian orchestras, and has played in in the concert halls of Vienna, Göttingen, Jena, Helsinki, London, New York, Boston and Dallas. Imre will present the pieces in detail later on.

Please, welcome Imre Pátkai, and enjoy the concert.