

Liszt Year 2011

The bicentenary of the birth of Franz Liszt is indeed a special occasion for classical music not only in Hungary but throughout the world. In the [Liszt Year](#) a whole series of events in Hungary and abroad will evoke the still living memory of Franz Liszt. The varied programmes are grouped around characteristic aspects of his imposing figure and artistic activity. They will present the man who cultivated his Hungarian identity but was at home everywhere as a cultivated citizen of the world, the religious artist who planned the renewal of Catholic church music, the piano virtuoso celebrated throughout the world, the music teacher whose influence is still felt through his establishment of the Academy of Music and his students, and last but not least the great star with his crowds of fans and souvenir hunters.



It is a fortunate coincidence that in the same year, in the first half of 2011 Hungary is assuming the [Presidency of the European Union](#), for the first time in its history. This historical occasion is always an opportunity for Member States, besides dealing with current political issues, to present to Europe the culture of the country holding the EU Presidency. Accordingly, the Liszt programmes to be held during and in connection with the EU Presidency not only present the composer's work and the Hungarian identity he embraced but also demonstrate that Hungary has deservedly been in the forefront of classical music for centuries.

The Liszt Year in Hungary is coordinated by Hungarofest Nonprofit Ltd Klassz Music Office, whose most important role is the coordination of the special music years related to anniversaries. Thus, among others, the office has been preparing, coordinating, and organizing the Haydn Year 2009, the Erkel-Mahler Year 2010, and the Liszt Year 2011. Hungarofest Nonprofit Ltd is also in charge of preparing and coordinating the cultural programmes of Hungary's EU Presidency in the first half of 2011.

Belgium

The highlight projects marking the Hungarian EU Presidency and the Liszt Year 2011 in Belgium include the "Hungary in Focus" festival in [the BOZAR](#) from 25 January to May 2011 featuring the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, Zoltán Kocsis, Barnabás Kelemen, Dezső Ránki, Gábor Csalog beside a number of literary, film and world music programmes. The Budapest Festival Orchestra will give a concert in [Gent](#) in September 2011 and the [Clara Festival](#) is also planning to invite Hungarian artists to appear in their programme. It is also important to mention that the [International Liszt Association](#) will hold its workshop in Brussels in December 2011.

Further information on the conception of the Liszt Year and our programmes in Belgium as well as in other European countries can be found in detail on the website of the Hungarian Liszt Year at <http://www.liszt-2011.hu> that we noticed you kindly linked to your website already, highlighting one of our most important Liszt-related international initiative, the World Liszt Day as well.

Source: Hungarofest - KLASSZ Music Office, the official coordinator of the Liszt Year in Hungary (e-mail of 6 January 2011 to Icons of Europe).

Franz Liszt entertained over the years a special relationship with Belgium

In February 1841, Liszt first toured [Belgium](#) where he again met the piano virtuoso Marie Pleyel to whom Chopin had dedicated [Nocturnes Op. 9](#). She became in 1848 professor of piano at the [Conservatoire royal de Bruxelles](#) (today with a [Flemish](#) counterpart). Liszt returned to Belgium in 1842 and 1854. He developed close relations with the family of the Belgian cellist [François Servais](#). In 1861, he met Comtesse de Mercy-Argenteau, daughter of Prince de Chimay (Belgium).

Source: Icons of Europe.