

A Game of Thrones: New Music Meets the Firebird

Thursday, May 14, 2026 · 20:00 · Philharmonie Berlin
Klaus Mäkelä, conductor

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME		MIN
1	NORMAN b. 1979 <i>"Play" for orchestra (German premiere)</i>	45'
2	STRAVINSKY 1882–1971 <i>"L'Oiseau de feu" (The Firebird), Ballet Music (complete)</i>	45'
TOTAL MUSIC		90'

Andrew Norman

45 minutes

b. 1979
"Play" for orchestra (German premiere)

ABOUT THE WORK

Play is the piece that put Andrew Norman on the international map. Written in 2013 while he was composer in residence with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, it was premiered by BMOP under Gil Rose in Boston's Jordan Hall that May, and Norman revised it in 2016 for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. It was nominated for a 2016 Grammy, won the 2017 Grawemeyer Award, and one critic called it the best orchestral work the twenty-first century had produced so far. Tonight's performance is its German premiere, a major moment for Berlin audiences.

Igor Stravinsky

45 minutes

1882–1971
"L'Oiseau de feu" (The Firebird), Ballet Music (complete)

ABOUT THE WORK

The Firebird is based on Russian fairy tales, assembled into a scenario by the choreographer Michel Fokine and his collaborators. The action centres on Prince Ivan Tsarevich, who wanders into the enchanted garden of the immortal sorcerer Kashchei. There he captures the magical Firebird, who buys her freedom by giving him one of her feathers, with which he can summon

her in time of need. Ivan then encounters thirteen captive princesses, falls in love with one of them, and is taken prisoner by Kashchei. The Firebird returns, casts Kashchei and his followers into a deep sleep, and reveals the secret of his immortality (an egg containing his soul); Ivan smashes the egg, freeing the princesses and the kingdom.



CONCERT PROGRAMS

<https://concertprograms.eu/concerts/bp-2026-05-14-makela>

Version 3, 30 September 2026