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On behalf of: Gift of Life

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## Teodor Currentzis and musicAeterna to Perform Charity Concert of Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet in Aid of Gift of Life

*Taking place at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017,  
the concert will raise money for children with cancer across Russia*

**London, November 2016** – Renowned conductor and Artistic Director Teodor Currentzis and his famous orchestra, musicAeterna, are returning to London for an exclusive performance of the music from Sergei Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet in aid of the Gift of Life charity. Currentzis, who has won multiple awards for his captivating performances, including six National Theatre Award Golden Masks, has personally arranged a selection of Prokofiev's most enduring classics. The evening will also include sonnets and readings from Shakespeare's plays performed by British film and theatre actor, **Ralph Fiennes** and highly-acclaimed Russian actresses **Chulpan Khamatova** and **Dina Korzun**, the founders of Gift of Life's sister charity, Podari Zhizn.

Originally composed for the ballet, the music from Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet will be performed alongside readings from William Shakespeare's play, bringing together high points of Russian and British culture through interpretations of the tragic love story. The best of contemporary Russian culture will be on show, with Currentzis and MusicAeterna intending to bring to London their same passion, drive and vision that has created a storm across continental Europe.

Gift of Life raises donations in the UK and across Europe, to provide seriously ill children in Russia with cutting-edge medicine and medical aid. The medicines, which are otherwise unavailable in Russia, are vital for treating



specific forms of cancer, and will be the main focus of Gift of Life's donations. Funding will also go towards bone marrow transplants and bringing foreign specialists to Moscow for vital surgeries and instruction.

Gift of Life has helped over 260 seriously ill children and has raised over £2,500,000 since 2011. The charity's patrons include Princess Catherine Galitzine, singer and songwriter Katie Melua, actress and screenwriter Justine Waddell, and Cancer Centre London's Leukaemia and Bone Marrow Transplant Specialist, Professor Ray Powles. Guests of previous events have included Stephen Fry, Dame Vivien Duffield, Natalia Vodianova, Raymond Blanc, Stephen Webster and Martha Fiennes.

Tickets to the concert are available now at the following link, priced between £16-£85:

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/113657-teodor-currentzis-musicaeterna-prokofievs-romeo-and-juliet-charity-concert-aid-2017>

Thanks to the generous support of Phenomen Trust, Roman Abramovich, Aeroflot Russian Airlines, Kaspersky Lab and partnership with Corinthia Hotel London; all money raised from ticket sales will go directly to children with cancer in Russia.

If you would like to make a donation to Gift of Life, please visit the following link:

<http://www.giftoflife.eu/donate/>

Instagram: **@gift\_of\_life\_charity**  
**#giftoflifecharity**

- ENDS -

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## Notes to Editors

- The Gift of Life foundation (Gift of Life) was established in the UK in March 2011 as a sister charity to Podari Zhizn.
- Gift of Life's charitable donations help support the activities of Podari Zhizn in Russia. The money is used to purchase vital medicines unavailable in Russia; to fund matches for bone marrow donors; and to facilitate teaching and operating visits of foreign cancer specialists to Russia.
- Podari Zhizn is one of Russia's largest and best established charities, founded in 2006. It has provided care and support to over 35,000 children with oncological, haematological and other severe illnesses.
- In Russia, cancer treatment and other potentially fatal diseases are only partially covered by the state, with as much as 66% of the cost shouldered by families who are often living below the poverty line.

## About the Artists

**Teodor Currentzis** is the Artistic Director of the Perm State Opera and Ballet Theatre, and Artistic Director of the ensemble musicAeterna and of the musicAeterna Chamber Choir. In September 2016 Teodor toured Europe with musicAeterna, with semi-staged performances of Purcell's *The Indian Queen*, as well as programmes of music by Rameau, Mozart and Beethoven. Currentzis has been recognised for his work with multiple awards including six Golden Masks (the Russian National Theatre's most prestigious award), two ECHO Klassik Awards (2014 for Opera Recording 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century opera, 2016 for Symphonic Recording 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century music) and a daytime Emmy Award.

**musicAeterna**, founded in 2004 by Teodor Currentzis, is one of the most sought-after ensembles touring today. Having performed in the most prestigious concert halls in the European musical capitals, and beyond, the orchestra is resident in Perm and has been granted the status of the first orchestra of Perm State Theatre of Opera and Ballet. Teodor Currentzis and musicAeterna are exclusive Sony artists. Their recordings to date include the Mozart Da Ponte trilogy with *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Così fan Tutte*, with *Don Giovanni* to follow in 2016. Their recordings of *Stravinsky's Rite of Spring*, *Les Noces* and *Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto* have drawn outstanding critical acclaim.

**Chulpan Khamatova** is one of contemporary Russia's most famous actresses, whose found international acclaim in the award-winning German production, *Goodbye Lenin!* (2003). She is a recipient of the State Prize of the Russian Federation, and founded Podaria Zhizn together with Dina Korzun. In recent years her name has been ever more closely associated with charity work.

**Dina Korzun** is a Russian actress living in London, and the co-founder of Podari Zhizn. Dina became world-famous with her acclaimed screen debut in Valery Todorovsky's *Country of the Deaf* (1998). She has been twice nominated for Independent Spirit Awards, and has most recently graced UK screens as Grand Duchess Izabella in the BBC hit production *Peaky Blinders* (Season 3, 2016).

**Ralph Fiennes** is an actor who achieved prominence through the Royal Shakespeare Company. He played the Secret Service supervisor M in *Skyfall* and *Spectre*. He recently appeared in *Richard III* at the Almeida Theatre, *The Master Builder* at the Old Vic Theatre and *Man & Superman* at the National Theatre. Fiennes made his feature film directorial debut in 2011 with *Coriolanus* and in 2013 he directed and starred in *The Invisible Woman*. His film roles include *Schindler's List*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Hail Caesar!* and *A Bigger Splash*.



### About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information, please visit [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Southbank Centre is carrying out vital restoration work on the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room to make the buildings fit for future generations to enjoy, more information can be found here: [letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk).