

Press Release

March 4, 2022

**Daniel Hope and Alexey Botvinov give peace and benefit concert
for Ukraine aid**

On Friday, March 11, 2022, at 6 p.m. in the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche, C. Bechstein Pianoforte AG presents a peace and benefit concert in aid of the “Nothilfe Ukraine” by the charity organisation “Aktion Deutschland Hilft”. The violinist Daniel Hope, the Ukrainian pianist Alexey Botvinov and the actor Sebastian Koch are among the stars of this concert, which is organised in cooperation with the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche Foundation, which is providing the premises venue. Tickets are available for 30 Euros (plus booking fee) on the website <https://gedaechtniskirche-berlin.de>. All proceeds go to the “Nothilfe Ukraine”.

General Superintendent Ulrike Trautwein, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche Foundation, will open the event with a prayer for peace in Ukraine, before the music takes over. "My thoughts and prayers are with all the people and our friends in Ukraine," says Daniel Hope, who feels connected to these people not least because of his longstanding musical partnership with Alexey Botvinov. The Ukrainian pianist is, among other things, artistic director of a festival in his birthplace. "The festival in Odessa, a magical place, is an integral part of my life," explains Hope. "The Ukrainian people, their music and their rich and diverse history are a great inspiration to me. We are sending a message of solidarity to Ukraine from my hometown of Berlin." The program includes works by the Ukrainian composers Valentin Silvestrov and Myroslaw Skoryk. In addition, the actor Sebastian Koch will recite various texts. Former Federal President Joachim Gauck has been asked to be the patron of the benefit concert.

Bechstein also feels close ties to the people of Ukraine. Bechstein has pledged donations totaling EUR 500,000 to various aid projects and organisations in Ukraine. EUR 200,000 of this will be transferred to “Aktion Deutschland Hilft” in parallel with the proceeds from the tickets for the peace and benefit concert.