

# Eastern Riches

---

**I, CULTURE Orchestra foster cultural exchange through music**

---

**I** CULTURE is very much a new kid on the orchestral block. Founded in 2011, it might be short on length of service, but it more than makes up for that with enthusiasm, power and sheer opulence of sound.

The orchestra brings together fine young musicians from seven countries from the Eastern Partnership – Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Poland. ‘The most important things we’re trying to do are to encourage cultural exchange between those countries,’ says I, CULTURE’s charismatic young conductor Kirill Karabits, ‘and also to show the world the wonderful, unique cultures of those nations.’

It’s music by two more familiar composers that they bring to Festival 2014. Shostakovich’s powerful Symphony No 7, the ‘Leningrad’, was famously completed during the harrowing 900-day Nazi siege of the Soviet city – well, maybe. ‘We’ve discovered that

Shostakovich actually began writing it before the war even started. This music is about a wider struggle for freedom.’

It shares the programme with the moving *Sinfonia elegiaca* by the lesser-known Polish composer Andrzej Panufnik. ‘It’s an anti-war protest against violence and the aggressive element in mankind,’ explains Karabits. ‘Both symphonies have their own stories, but what unites them is the emphasis on humanity, and the freedom of people and countries.’

**David Kettle**

---

**Shostakovich's  
Leningrad Symphony**

---

Sunday 17 August 7.30pm  
Usher Hall  
[eif.co.uk/leningrad](http://eif.co.uk/leningrad)

---

Supported by

**CULTURE.PL**

Léan Scully EIF Fund  
James and Morag Anderson

