



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Media Release

The 2017 Easter Festival concludes with a positive overall result of 94% capacity

Lucerne, 8 April 2017. Lucerne Festival takes stock of the Easter Festival concluding tomorrow, Sunday, 9 April: the concerts for this year's nine-day-long Festival were very well attended, with a capacity of 94%* and more than 9000 concertgoers in attendance. A total of 14 events featuring sacred as well as secular music was offered; these took place in various Lucerne churches and in the KKL Luzern. Five of the concerts were sold out, including the opening concert on 1 April, the choral concerts on 2 and 4 April, and the symphony concert by MusicAeterna with Teodor Currentzis and the violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja. The premiere of a new production of Claudio Monteverdi's *Vespers*, this year's collaboration between Lucerne Festival and the Luzerner Theater, additionally sold out**. A total of about 330 auditors attended the master class in conducting with Bernard Haitink.

This weekend Mariss Jansons will conduct the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in its annual Lucerne residency – tonight brings the Swiss premiere of Wolfgang Rihm's *Requiem-Strophen*. It is the first *räsonanz* Foundation concert, an initiative of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, in cooperation with Lucerne Festival and Bavarian Radio's *musica viva*. Tomorrow evening is the final concert, which will include Emmanuel Ax in Mozart's Piano Concerto in E-flat major, K. 482. The world premiere of Lucerne Festival Young's production *Once Around the World* featuring the Ensemble of Lucerne Festival Alumni and Mike Svoboda takes place tomorrow, Sunday, at 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

The Greek conductor Teodor Currentzis was this year's artist-in-residence at the Easter Festival. He conducted his ensemble MusicAeterna in two concerts at the KKL Luzern: he was joined on 5 April by the violinist and "artiste étoile" of the upcoming Summer Festival, Patricia Kopatchinskaja. On 7 April he led the ensemble, together with the soprano Nuria Rial and the mezzo-soprano Paula Murrin, in a program of works by Pergolesi and Haydn. Compositions by J.S. Bach, Poulenc, and Messiaen were on the program of 2 April in the Franziskanerkirche – performed by the Collegium Vocale zu Franziskanern Luzern and Capricornus Consort Basel. A highlight of the Festival was the music theater work based on Monteverdi's *Vespers*, which premiered on 3 April and which still has several upcoming performances. This is a coproduction of Lucerne Festival and the Luzerner Theater, which reconfigured the Jesuitenkirche into a stage space in which those attending were encouraged to move about and interact with the performers. Another choral concert was given on 4 April in honor of the 600th birthday of Nicholas of Flüe in the Kirchensaal MaiHof. Thomas Hengelbrock led the Balthasar Neumann Choir and Ensemble, as well as the soloists Daniel Behle and Markus Butter, in Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. John Passion* on 6 April, presenting the seldom-played second version from 1725. Over a three-day period, from 7 to 9 April, in the seventh edition of the annual Master Class in Conducting, young conductors had an opportunity to profit from the knowledge and experience of Bernard Haitink and to work with the Festival Strings Lucerne.

*not including those auditing the Master Class in Conducting

**additional performances are scheduled for 8, 20, 21, 22, 27, and 28 April

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