



Media Release

Piano Festival | 17 to 25 November 2018

Recitals with Grigory Sokolov, Igor Levit, and Piotr Anderszewski; Andreas Haefliger to play two piano concertos; Cameron Carpenter's return to Lucerne two years after his Festival debut

Sir András Schiff presents two evenings designed around the late piano pieces of Brahms

The Day of the Keyboard marks the 20th anniversary of the Piano Festival with a focus on the theme of dance music

Lucerne, 28 June 2018. For the anniversary edition of the 20th anniversary of the Piano Festival, Sir András Schiff has designed a two-part recital that will unfold over two separate evenings in the KKL Lucerne. He will interpolate works by Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Schumann with the late piano pieces of Brahms, thus juxtaposing the latter with models that influenced Brahms.

For the Festival's opening program, Igor Levit will combine variations, fantasias, and transcriptions by Brahms, Busoni, Liszt, and Schumann. Closing out this week devoted to the piano will be Piotr Anderszewski's interpretation of the *Diabelli Variations* by Beethoven. Grigory Sokolov returns to Lucerne with a recital, and two years after he made his debut in Lucerne, Cameron Carpenter comes back with an organ recital featuring works by Bach and the American Howard Hanson that will showcase his custom-designed International Touring Organ. Andreas Haefliger will be the soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491 and Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand* with Donald Runnicles conducting the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich.

On the "Day of the Keyboard," the Piano Festival will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a series of recitals by the Russian pianists Varvara and Sergei Redkin and the French Bertrand Chamayou focused on dance music and titled "Cueing the Keys." Bertrand Chamayou will combine dances and dance suites by Ravel with short pieces for prepared piano by John Cage created in the 1940s for the modern dance pioneers Valerie Bettis and Merce Cunningham. In keeping with the theme, Martin Meyer will lecture about the waltz; during the second weekend of the Festival, he will also present a lecture on pianists of yesterday. Nicolas Hodges will present world premieres of the work by three finalists in the Seventh Composition Competition of the Christoph Delz Foundation. This year's edition of the Competition marks the first time that the winners will be chosen from among the finalists only after the concert – and thus after all pieces have had their first hearing. The finalists from whose works the winner will be chosen are the Japanese Eiko Tsukamoto, the Italian Francesco Ciurlo, and the Finnish Sebastian Hilli.

Debut concerts will be given by the Chinese Haochen Zhang, the German Schaghajegh Nosrati and the Italian Federico Colli. Another anniversary being celebrated is that of "Piano-Off-Stage." This year marks the 15th birthday of this festival within the Festival, in which internationally acclaimed jazz pianists perform over five evenings in bars around Lucerne. As a prelude, the entire lineup appears in an opening event in the KKL's Lucerne Hall. Two master classes in piano, led by Andreas Haefliger and Nicolas Hodges, respectively, will be offered in cooperation with the Hochschule Luzern – Musik. These are open to auditors and will conclude with a concert at St. Charles Hall in Meggen.

Concert Sponsor – Julius Baer

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