

Media Release

Gala Fundraising Event of the American Friends of Lucerne Festival in New York with Christina Wettergren as Guest of Honor

Lucerne/New York, 29 May 2019. **The annual Fundraising Gala of the American Friends of Lucerne Festival in New York took place this Tuesday, 28 May 2019, at Carnegie Hall. Some 190 guests gathered to make it possible for talented young music students from the USA to participate in the 2019 Lucerne Festival Academy. The evening also included live music provided by the pianist Emanuel Ax and the JACK Quartet. The four musicians of the JACK Quartet are members of the Lucerne Festival Alumni network.**

This benefit event resulted in generous donations to finance the attendance by a total of 21 highly talented American music students from the most renowned conservatories in the USA at the Lucerne Festival Academy in the summer of 2019. Of these 21 students, 16 were present at the event.

Some 190 guests assembled in Carnegie Hall for an evening of cocktails, dinner, and an exclusive private concert with pianist Emanuel Ax and the JACK Quartet. The gala took place in honor of Christina Wettergren, who is a member of the Vontobel family. For many years, the Vontobel family has been one of the most generous sponsors of Lucerne Festival and, since 2014, has served as Lead Sponsor of the annual gala event of the American Friends of Lucerne Festival. Wettergren was honored over the course of the evening for her services with an encomium delivered by Dr. iur. Hubert Achermann, Chairman of the Lucerne Festival Foundation Board, and she was presented with a Carl F. Bucherer watch. At her request, the watch was auctioned off on the same evening to benefit the students of the Lucerne Festival Academy, the proceeds going directly into the fundraising account. The auction was conducted by Hugh Hildesley, Vice Chairman of Sotheby's America.

In addition to such guests as Markus Börlin (Swiss Ambassador and General Consul in New York) and his wife Corinna, Albert Behler (Chairman, CEO, and President of Paramount Group), Gil Shiva (film producer and director), and award winning artist and fashion illustrator Cathy Graham were among those present for the event.

The Lead Sponsor of the Gala Fundraising Event in New York was Vontobel, and the Co-Sponsors were Carl F. Bucherer and Zurich Insurance North America. The event received additional support from the following:

Academy Circle

Albert Behler | The Kovner Foundation | Sotheby's | Alan and Christine Vickery

Student Advocate

BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER LLP | Henry Schein Inc. | KPMG LLP



Student Supporter

Bürgenstock Hotels & Resort

Patrons

Nicolette Bingham | Laurence and Michèle Corash | Laurie Cronin | Lucerne Business – Economic Development Luzern | Steven and Keiko Kaplan | Howard L. Kaye | Elise Kirk | Gil Shiva | Michael Frazier Thompson | Sana Sabbagh

A photo gallery of the event may be found online here:

www.lucernefestival.ch/en/partners-and-friends/friends/newyork2019

About the American Friends of Lucerne Festival

The American Friends of Lucerne Festival is the most important international organization of the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival. Established in New York in 2002, this non-profit organization has as its mission enabling highly talented American music students from the most renowned conservatories in the United States to participate in the Lucerne Festival Academy. The Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy presents several concert programs in Lucerne during the course of the Summer Festival. Former Academy participants, the Lucerne Festival Alumni, perform their own programs internationally, including in Europe and the United States.

Board of Trustees of the American Friends of Lucerne Festival

Alan B. Vickery (Chairman), Richard Matlaga (Treasurer & Secretary), Dr. iur. Hubert Achermann, Stanley Bergman, Yefim Bronfman, Michael Haefliger
Valentina Rota, Director of Development

About the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival

The Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival was founded in 1966. Today, the Friends make annual contributions amounting to around eight percent of Lucerne Festival's total budget, thus contributing significantly to the financial security and sustainability of the Festival. As a result, the Friends have become not only the biggest sponsor of the Festival but an important ambassador as well, thanks to the moral support the Friends provide. Currently, around 600 ambassadors in Switzerland and around the world are committed to Lucerne Festival. The majority of the international Friends of Lucerne Festival come from Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Spain, Israel, the United States, and Japan.

Contacts for the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival and the American Friends of Lucerne Festival

Valentina Rota, Executive Director | v.rota@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 52

Sarah Amstad, Assistant to the Executive Director | s.amstad@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 51

www.lucernefestival.ch/partner-und-freunde/freunde