



Media Release

Sara Zazo Romero, Alexandre Guy, and Thomas Soldati Are the Winners of the 2018 Fritz Gerber Award

Lucerne, 19 June 2018. The saxophonist Sara Zazo Romero, the violinist Alexandre Guy, and the percussionist Thomas Soldati have received the Fritz Gerber Foundation Award. This award supports young, highly talented musicians in the field of contemporary classical music. Each of these three musicians will receive a cash award of CHF 10,000 as well as a scholarship in the form of coverage of the costs to participate in the Lucerne Festival Academy, which is an additional value of CHF 10,000. In 2018 the Lucerne Festival Academy Fund of the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival has additionally received an extraordinary donation from Renate and Fritz Gerber in the amount of CHF 500,000.

Born in 1989 in Madrid, the saxophonist Sara Zazo Romero completed her master's degree in instrumental education at the Haute École de Musique de Lausanne in 2017, where she previously earned her master's degree in musical performance. The French violinist Alexandre Guy was born in 1995 in La Rochelle. He graduated with a master's degree in music performance from the Haute École de Musique de Genève. With the Meteorôs Quintet, which was founded in 2016, he won the first prize in 2017 and 2018 in the Chamber Music Competition of the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo. The Swiss percussionist Thomas Soldati was born in 1996 in Vercorin. He is currently studying at the Haute École de Musique de Genève and has taken part in master classes with such figures as the composer and marimbaphone player Keiko Abe and the percussionist Peter Sadlo.

This was the fourth time that the Lucerne Festival Academy has invited young musicians to apply for the Fritz Gerber Award. In addition to applications by the musicians themselves in an open call for candidates, recommendations from music academies and well-known artists were received. The jury consisted once again this year of Michael Haefliger, the Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival, the composer and conductor Heinz Holliger, and members of the Academy's teaching faculty. Participation in the Fritz Gerber Award is open to young artists up to 28 years of age who possess Swiss citizenship or who have been living in Switzerland for a minimum of five years.

The **Fritz Gerber Foundation** has been active since 1999. It promotes talented young people in the fields of education (including technical colleges), skilled crafts and trades, culture, and athletics. This support is facilitated through awarding financial contributions to education, including continuing and advanced training. Since 1999, the Foundation has supported more than 2,100 talented young persons with a total of CHF 25 million.

The **Lucerne Festival Academy** was founded in 2003 by Pierre Boulez, together with Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger. Since the summer of 2016, Wolfgang Rihm had been leading the Academy as Artistic Director, with support from Principal Conductor Matthias Pintscher. Highly talented young musicians from all around the world gather each summer to study contemporary scores and Modernist classics. Serving as their teachers are a selective group of international specialists, among them members of the Paris-based Ensemble intercontemporain, as well as members of other renowned new music ensembles. This year the Academy is focusing on works by the composer Karlheinz Stockhausen. Peter Eötvös will work with three young conductors and the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy to present the work *INORI*, and Matthias Pintscher, Duncan Ward, Sir Simon Rattle, and the London Symphony Orchestra will join forces to realize Stockhausen's *GRUPPEN* for three orchestras.

www.lucernefestival.ch/de/lucerne-festival-academy/fritz-gerber-award

Contact for Press and Public Relations

presse@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 -43 /-59

Additional information is available at www.lucernefestival.ch/en or www.fritz-gerber-stiftung.ch