



Media Release

Lucerne Festival at Easter 2016 ends with positive final results of 90% seat occupancy

Lucerne, 19 March 2016. With a total seat occupancy rate of 90% for the church, symphony, and choral concerts and about 8600* concertgoers, Lucerne Festival at Easter concludes tomorrow, on Sunday, 20 March. The Festival will have presented a total of 15 events. These musical programs of sacred and secular music, which are performed during the opening days in Lucerne's churches and subsequently in the KKL Luzern, were again given a very good reception by audiences this year: The opening concert on 12 March, "Dialogue of Souls," was sold out. Some 580 concertgoers are expected to attend the two performances tomorrow, which are also sold-out, of the music theater production *A Little Prince*, part of the Young series; Bernard Haitink's master class in conducting attracted a total of 280 auditors. Tomorrow at 2 p.m. the Festival will pay homage to the late cofounder of the Lucerne Festival Academy, Pierre Boulez, with a memorial concert at which about 1100 attendees are additionally expected. An ensemble comprising 112 alumni of the Lucerne Festival Academy will perform works by Pierre Boulez, Alban Berg, and Igor Stravinsky. For the first concert of their annual Lucerne residency this evening, under the direction of Mariss Jansons, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will play Rachmaninoff's symphonic poem *The Bells*, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Julian Rachlin as the soloist, and Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*. Tomorrow evening the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra will perform Dmitri Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, under the direction of Mariss Jansons, in the Festival's concluding concert.

This year marked the first time in the history of the Easter Festival that an artist-in-residence was named: Jordi Savall, who opened the Easter Festival on 12 March with the ensemble Hespèrion XXI in a program exploring the connections among Jewish, Muslim, and Christian musical traditions. For the second of his three performances he performed European music for the viola da gamba in a solo recital, and on Friday he conducted his ensembles Le Concert des Nations and the vocal group La Capella Reial de Catalunya in celebratory choral works from the Baroque by Charpentier, Handel, Vivaldi, and Johann Sebastian Bach. Additional highlights of the Festival were the *St. Matthew Passion* by Johann Sebastian Bach as performed by Sir John Eliot Gardiner, the English Baroque Soloists, and the Monteverdi Choir. William Christie and his ensemble Les Arts Florissants presented Mozart's opera *Il re pastore* in a performance featuring such soloists as Rolando Villazón, Martina Janková, and the Lucerne soprano Regula Mühlemann. Also included were church concerts given by the Lucerne Academy Choir and the Aurn Quartet. For the sixth time in a row, Bernard Haitink shared his wisdom and experience in a master class in conducting, joined by the Festival Strings Lucerne.

A Little Prince, a collaborative production by Lucerne Festival Young, the National Youth Ballet, and the Podium Festival Esslingen, will receive its world premiere tomorrow in the KKL Luzern's Luzerner Saal at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. This dance theater production, inspired by motifs from the Saint-Exupéry story, combines music by Elgar, Janáček, Ravel, and Debussy and will be musically accompanied by an ensemble comprising Lucerne Festival Alumni and the Podium Festival Esslingen.

*not including those attending the memorial concert for Pierre Boulez on 20 March, the master class in conducting, and the Young music theater performances

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