



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

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LUCERNE FESTIVAL encompasses a series of internationally leading festivals in the realm of classical music. Each year three distinct festivals take place: the Easter Festival, the Summer Festival, and the Piano Festival. LUCERNE FESTIVAL was founded in 1938; Michael Haefliger has been Executive and Artistic Director since 1999. Each year the most acclaimed symphony orchestras come to Lucerne to perform: these include such ensembles as the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam. The LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA, which was founded in 2004 by Claudio Abbado and Michael Haefliger, brings internationally acclaimed orchestral musicians to Lucerne each summer for a two-week period. Since 2016, Riccardo Chailly is the orchestra's new Music Director. Along with cultivating the traditional repertoire, contemporary music plays an essential role at LUCERNE FESTIVAL in terms of programming and education. Equally important is the development of emerging talent in the areas known as LUCERNE FESTIVAL YOUNG and in the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY. The Academy which was founded by Pierre Boulez and Michael Haefliger, is also under a new directorship since 2016: Artistic Director Wolfgang Rihm and Principal Conductor Matthias Pintscher. As LUCERNE FESTIVAL ALUMNI, participants of the Academy continue to have an impact in Lucerne and around the world through first-class concert projects. The KKL Luzern, a complex designed by Jean Nouvel and celebrated for its outstanding acoustics and its architecture alike, serves as the central venue for LUCERNE FESTIVAL.

From mid-August until mid-September the Summer Festival presents some 100 concerts. These offerings encompass a wide range of concert formats: symphony concerts, chamber music, recitals, the Debut and Late Nights series, and much more. "Composers-in-residence", "artistes étoiles", and such innovative concert formats as the 40min and Young Performance series receive significant emphasis in the programming. Every Summer Festival is devoted to a particular topic that is the leitmotif for the programming dramaturgy. The Easter Festival lasts nine days, with a focus on sacred music. The Piano Festival likewise takes place over a period of nine days in November. LUCERNE FESTIVAL ARK NOVA, a mobile concert hall, was inaugurated in 2013 and has been put into operation in fall 2014 and 2015 in the area of Japan affected by the earthquake: a sign of hope and reassurance, it provides a concert performance venue.

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