

Media Release

Anne-Sophie Mutter, Manuela Wirth, and Christian Gellerstad are the newest members of the Lucerne Festival Foundation Board of Trustees

Lucerne, 19 August 2021. Lucerne Festival is pleased to announce that violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, gallery owner Manuela Wirth, and Christian Gellerstad, a member of the Board of Directors at Credit Suisse Group AG, will join the Lucerne Festival Foundation Board as of 1 January 2022. Their election was officially confirmed at yesterday's meeting of the Foundation Board. Anne-Sophie Mutter succeeds Alois Koch, who is retiring from the Foundation Board after 23 years. Manuela Wirth replaces Otto Wyss, who is stepping down after 13 years. His function as Treasurer on both the Lucerne Festival Foundation Board and the Friends of Lucerne Festival Foundation Board will now be assumed by Christian Casal.

"I am enormously pleased to have gained these three extraordinary figures for the Lucerne Festival Foundation Board," remarks Markus Hongler, Lucerne Festival Foundation Board Chairman. "We would like to thank Alois Koch and Otto Wyss from the bottom of our hearts for their outstanding commitment. Both have been passionately involved in the Festival over the years."

Anne-Sophie Mutter, whose international career was launched in 1976 at Lucerne Festival, has been giving concerts in all of the leading music centers around the globe for 45 years and has left her mark on the classical music scene as a soloist, mentor, and visionary. At the age of 13, she made her debut in Lucerne as part of the "Young Artists" series; this was followed just one year later by her first concert in Salzburg with the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of Herbert von Karajan. The four-time Grammy Award winner is as committed to performing traditional compositions as she is to the future of music: to date, she has premiered 28 works. She also devotes herself intensively to promoting the finest young musical talent. In the fall of 1997, she founded the Freundeskreis Anne-Sophie Mutter Stiftung e.V. (Friends of the Anne-Sophie Mutter Foundation), which was expanded in 2008 by the establishment of the Anne-Sophie Mutter Foundation. Within the framework of these two non-profit institutions, scholarship holders are supported according to their individual needs. Additionally, Anne-Sophie Mutter has regularly shared the spotlight with her scholarship ensemble, "Mutter's Virtuosi," since 2011. Working on medical and social problems of our time is also important to her. She supports these causes through regular benefit concerts, for example, for Save the Children or the SOS Children's Villages. Among many other prizes and awards, the violinist is a recipient of the Grand Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Order of the Legion of Honor, the Bavarian Order of Merit, and the Grand Decoration of Honor of Austria. Anne-Sophie Mutter has enjoyed a long-standing friendship with Michael Haefliger, the Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival, which has manifested itself in numerous extraordinary artistic projects at Lucerne Festival.

Manuela Wirth is among the most internationally influential gallery owners. "Hauser & Wirth," the company she runs with her husband Iwan Wirth, operates galleries for contemporary art and modern masters at ten locations in the USA, Europe, and Asia. Hauser & Wirth also owns the hospitality business Art Farm, which operates various restaurants and hotels, including Fife Arms in Braemar, Scotland, which was named Hotel of the Year by The Sunday Times after it opened in 2019. Manuela Wirth is involved as a patron of numerous museums and art projects worldwide, including the Reykjavik Arts Festival and The Holborne Museum in Bath. She also supports numerous educational initiatives. Together with her husband, she funds a teaching and research position in the field of modern and contemporary Asian art at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London.

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Hauser & Wirth has a long tradition of supporting environmental initiatives at the community level. The Wirth couple also regularly supports charities that champion the environment, conservation, and education. Manuela Wirth was awarded the Doctor of Letters (Hons) by Bath Spa University in 2015, and Manuela and Iwan Wirth were jointly voted the No. 1 most powerful and influential people in the art world in ArtReview's "Power 100," an annual ranking of the most influential people in art.

Christian Gellerstad has been a member of the Board of Directors at Credit Suisse Group AG and Credit Suisse AG since 2019. He additionally serves Credit Suisse Group AG as Chairman of the Conduct and Financial Crime Control Committee since 2020, as a member of the Governance and Nominations Committee, and as a member of the Compensation Committee since 2019. He is also a member of the Board and the Audit Committee of Credit Suisse (Switzerland) AG since 2021. Previously, from 2007 to 2018, he was CEO of Pictet Wealth Management. In addition to his responsibilities with Credit Suisse, he is a member of the Board of Directors of Investis Holding AG, Elatior SA, Nubica SA, Taurus Group SA, FAVI SA, AFICA SA, and Tsampéro SA. Credit Suisse has supported Lucerne Festival as a Main Sponsor since 1993. Its sponsorship makes possible such events as the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra's annual residency and Lakeside Symphony, which broadcasts the Opening Concert live on the screen for the public to view. In addition, the Credit Suisse Foundation supports young, highly talented musicians through two prizes that alternate annually: the Credit Suisse Young Artist Award and the Prix Credit Suisse Jeunes Solistes.

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