

Media Release

Mendelssohn Festival from 8 to 10 April 2022

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly will devote the new Spring Festival to the composer Felix Mendelssohn and his contemporaries.

Lucerne, 10. November 2021. Music Director Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will perform the new annual Spring Festival for the first time from 8 to 10 April 2022. In 2022 and 2023, the focus will be on the composer Felix Mendelssohn, with both editions of the festival traversing his five symphonies in dialogue with works by his contemporaries, models, and successors. In 2022, these will include Richard Wagner, Robert Schumann, and Hector Berlioz. The spring weekend will present two symphony concerts with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, on Friday and Sunday evening, respectively, as well as a chamber concert featuring principals from the orchestra on Saturday evening.

“It is wonderful to be able to welcome the musicians of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra here in Lucerne during the spring,” remarks Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger. “Through this concept, we are continuing to develop the profile of our orchestra and creating a new and indeed unique international meeting place in Lucerne for classical music fans. We are very much looking forward to this premiere!”

Friday evening's program will combine Mendelssohn's Third and Fifth Symphonies with Wagner's Prelude to *Parsifal* and the *Ride of the Valkyries* from his opera *Die Walküre*. Musical quotations and various other elements in these works reveal the extent to which Richard Wagner actually admired Mendelssohn, even though after Mendelssohn's death he vilified his colleague in the anti-Semitic pamphlet *Das Judentum in der Musik* (“Judaism in Music”), accusing him of never having achieved a “profoundly heart-and-soul-gripping effect” in his works. On Saturday evening, chamber works by Robert Schumann will complement Mendelssohn's Octet in E-flat major. Schumann and Mendelssohn shared a close friendship, and there are many similarities to be discovered in their music. Schumann's Three Romances for Oboe and Piano, Op. 94, and his Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 47, will be performed. Sunday evening brings Hector Berlioz into focus alongside Mendelssohn: the two composers were in Italy at the same time in 1830-31 and met in Rome in the spring of 1831. Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony, the *Italian*, was written based on his impressions of the trip, and Berlioz later included it in his repertoire as a conductor. Berlioz's orchestral songs from *Les Nuits d'été* will be performed in this concert. The soloist will be the Canadian mezzo-soprano Marie-Nicole Lemieux. Gioachino Rossini's Overture to *Il barbiere di Siviglia* rounds off this Italian evening.

Advance ticket sales for the Spring Festival begin on 23 November 2021.

Friday, 8 April 2022 | 19.30 | **Mendelssohn & Wagner** | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | **Riccardo Chailly** conductor

Wagner Prelude to the stage festival play *Parsifal*

Mendelssohn Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 107 *Reformation Symphony*

Wagner *Ride of the Valkyries* from the Third Act of the opera *Die Walküre*

Mendelssohn Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 56 *Scottish*

Introduction to the concert with Susanne Stähr | 17.30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium

Saturday, 9 April 2022 | 19.30 | **Mendelssohn & Schumann** | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Soloists of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra | TBA piano

Schumann Three Romances for Oboe and Piano, Op. 94 | Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 47

Mendelssohn Octet in E-flat major for four violins, two violas, and two celli, Op. 20

Sunday, 10 April 2022 | 18.30 | **Mendelssohn & Berlioz** | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | **Riccardo Chailly** conductor | **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** mezzo-soprano

Mendelssohn Overture to *Ruy Blas* in C minor, Op. 95

Berlioz *Les Nuits d'été*, Op. 7

Rossini Overture to the opera *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4 in A major, Op. 90 *Italian*

Introduction to the concert with Susanne Stähr | 17.30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium

Photos may be downloaded at lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos

Contacts for Press and Public Relations

Nina Steinhart, Director of Public Relations | n.steinhart@lucernefestival.ch | T +41 (0)41 226 44 43

Katharina Schillen | k.schillen@lucernefestival.ch | T +41 (0)41 226 44 59