

Media Release

Composition Commissions for the 2019 *Roche Young Commissions* Awarded to Marianna Liik and Josep Planells Schiaffino

Lucerne, 5 September 2017. **Marianna Liik** and **Josep Planells Schiaffino** have been awarded commissions by the 2019 *Roche Young Commissions* to compose new works. Wolfgang Rihm, the Artistic Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy, selected both young artists, who were officially greeted at Roche on 4 September. Liik and Planells Schiaffino will each compose a work by 2019, on which they will work during the summer of 2018 together with Rihm and the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy. The works will then be given their world premiere during the 2019 Summer Festival.

The *Roche Young Commissions* series was established in 2013 for the first time as a unique cooperation between Roche, Lucerne Festival, and the Lucerne Festival Academy. Since 2003, the *Roche Commissions* series has provided a framework for the commissioning of internationally renowned composers; this partnership has been expanded through the *Roche Young Commissions*. The works commissioned by *Roche Commissions* and *Roche Young Commissions* are each given their world premieres every two years in alternation. In 2015 **Lisa Streich** and **Matthew Kaner** were awarded commissions by the 2017 *Roche Young Commissions*. Their works, *Segel* by Streich and *Encounters* by Kaner, were unveiled this past Saturday, 2 September, under the direction of Gregor Mayrhofer and Jeffrey Means, together with the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy.

Born in 1992 in Estonia, **Marianna Liik** graduated in 2017 with a master's degree in composition from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, where her mentors were Helena Tulve and Margo Kõlar. She has taken master classes with Wim Henderickx, Fausto Sebastiani, Daniele Bravi, Bryan Christian, Niels Rosing-Schow, and Ivan Fedele. Liik has written works for orchestras and ensembles such as the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and the Finnish Uusinta Ensemble. She has received numerous awards, including second prize at the International Rostrum of Composers in Prague in 2013, the WDR Film Score Award at Soundtrack_Cologne 11 in 2014, and, together with Leika Leemets, the 2016 EK:Labor Prize (an Estonian program for young music producers) with the work "Commentarium."

Josep Planells Schiaffino, who was born in 1988 in Valencia, studied composition at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin. His works have been performed by a variety of ensembles, including the Ensemble Modern, the Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Academy, the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, and the German Radio Philharmonic Saarbrücken. Planells Schiaffino received the Hanns Eisler Performance Prize in 2015 for his work "Vier Stücke." He was also awarded the German Academic Exchange Service Prize in 2013 and third prize at the 2014 Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Academy Competition held by the Berlin University of the Arts. He has acquired experience as a conductor with Fred Butkiewicz in Berlin, Peter Rundel in Porto, and Peter Eötvös in Budapest and Munich.

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