



Media Release

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra Goes on Tour in the Fall | 6 to 19 October 2019

Following an opening concert with Music Director Riccardo Chailly at the Teatro alla Scala in October, the orchestra will travel to Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen, along with the young pianist Alexander Malofeev as soloist.

Lucerne, 8 July 2019. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will continue its relationship with Shanghai with another residency there this October. Under the direction of Riccardo Chailly, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will start with a guest appearance at Milan's La Scala on 6 October before traveling for a third time in a row to China, following trips there in 2017 und 2018. In the process, Lucerne Festival will continue to build up its relationship with China. The first concert program will take place at the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing on 12 and 13 October, after which the orchestra heads on to Shanghai to give three back-to-back concerts at Shanghai Symphony Hall on 15, 16, and 17 October. The orchestra's final guest performance, which will also be a debut, will take place in Shenzhen on 19 October. The repertoire for this tour includes Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto and Third Symphony, as well as the Sixth Symphony by Gustav Mahler and Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony.

"Following the great success of our first Shanghai residency last year, we are looking forward to continuing it and to performing again in Beijing and – for the first time – in Shenzhen," says Michael Haefliger, Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival. "China has become an important core market for classical music, and we are proud to continue building on our presence there this year as well and to further embed the Lucerne Festival brand in China."

"I am delighted to be returning to China with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra," remarks Riccardo Chailly, the orchestra's Music Director. "The two programs – the all-Rachmaninoff program and Mahler's Sixth Symphony – make for a wonderful extension of the repertoire we offered in China last year. It demonstrates the unsurpassed level of stylistic diversity that this orchestra has to offer. The audience in China is fantastic, highly attentive at the start and explosive and full of enthusiasm at the end of the concerts."

The soloist for this year's tour is the 18-year-old Russian pianist Alexander Malofeev. "Malofeev is an outstanding, exceptional talent and an ideal pianist for Sergei Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto, as he has grown up entirely in the Russian musical tradition," explains Haefliger. Malofeev won the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians in Moscow at the age of 14. When he was only 16, he received the Grand Prix at the 1st Grand Piano Competition – International Competition for Young Pianists. Despite his youth, he has already performed with major international orchestras, including the Mariinsky Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the RAI National Symphony Orchestra, and the Filarmonica della Scala.

Among the principals of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra traveling to Milan and China will be concertmasters Gregory Ahss and Raphael Christ, violist Wolfram Christ, cellist Jens Peter Maintz, flutist Jacques Zoon, clarinetist Alessandro Carbonare, bassoonist Guilhaume Santana, horn player Ivo Gass, trumpeter Reinhold Friedrich, trombonist Jörgen van Rijen, and timpanist Raymond Curfs.



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

The orchestra's members again will include musicians from the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Filarmonica della Scala.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra

With the founding of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in 2003, Claudio Abbado and Michael Haefliger established a connection with Lucerne Festival's birth in 1938, when Arturo Toscanini brought celebrated virtuosos of the era together into a unique elite orchestra to perform a gala concert. Every summer, Claudio Abbado invited internationally renowned soloists, chamber musicians, and music teachers to Lucerne, and this "orchestra of friends" became established as one of the world's leading symphony orchestras. Riccardo Chailly, who ranks among the most-sought-after conductors of our time, took over artistic direction of the orchestra in the summer of 2016.

Born in Milan in 1953, Chailly has been closely associated with the Festival since 1988 and has given numerous concerts here conducting the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra.

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