



Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra 2019 Summer Festival

Riccardo Chailly extends his contract as Music Director until 2023

Yannick Nézet-Séguin will guest conduct a concert program in the summer of 2019

The partnership continues: with the extension of the Milanese maestro's contract, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly are continuing their collaboration for three more years, until 2023. Yannick Nézet-Séguin, who has recently been earning acclaim as Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, will take over this year's guest conducting role during the summer. He will lead the Lucerne Festival Orchestra for the first time in a concert on 22 August featuring works by Beethoven and Shostakovich. In addition to their Summer Festival concerts, the orchestra's annual tour will also continue to take place.

Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will open the 2019 Summer Festival with an all-Rachmaninoff evening. Denis Matsuev is the soloist in the Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, which will be performed along with the orchestral version of *Vocalise*, Op. 34, no. 14, and Rachmaninoff's Third Symphony in A minor. On the following day, the second program will combine the Third Piano Concerto, again with Denis Matsuev, with the Fourth Symphony by Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky. Yannick Nézet-Séguin will conduct Ludwig van Beethoven's Violin Concerto, with "artiste étoile" Leonidas Kavakos as the soloist, and Dmitri Shostakovich's Fourth Symphony. And at the end of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra's summer season, Riccardo Chailly will lead Gustav Mahler's Sixth Symphony.

This is Chailly's fourth year as Music Director of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. He began serving in this position in the summer of 2016, when he conducted Gustav Mahler's Eighth Symphony, known as the "Symphony of a Thousand," at his debut – thus concluding the orchestra's Mahler cycle, which the late Claudio Abbado had not been able to complete. The orchestra presented concert programs featuring music by Strauss, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, and Stravinsky in the summer of 2017; in the summer 2018, they performed works by Mozart, Stravinsky, Ravel, Wagner, and Bruckner.

With the founding of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, which was introduced to the public for the first time in August 2003, the conductor Claudio Abbado and Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger instituted a link with the birth of the Festival in Lucerne in 1938, when Arturo Toscanini's legendary "Concert de Gala" brought acclaimed virtuosos of the era together to form a unique elite orchestra. Following this example, internationally renowned principals, chamber musicians, and music professors join with the core of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra every summer in Lucerne to form a top-grade ensemble. Until his death in January 2014, Claudio Abbado was the Artistic Director of this "orchestra of friends," as he himself termed it. In August of 2014 and 2015, the orchestra gave concerts under the direction of Bernard Haitink and Andris Nelsons that featured works by Johannes Brahms, Frédéric Chopin, Joseph Haydn, and Gustav Mahler.

Many of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra's performances over the past decade have been televised and later released on DVD or CD, winning such prizes as the Diapason d'Or, the BBC Music Magazine Award, and the International Classical Music Award. The Swiss premiere of Stravinsky's *Chant funèbre* from 1909 took place on 19 August as part of the 2017 Summer Festival conducted by Riccardo Chailly, and this concert was released on CD in 2018.

The concert that opened the 2017 Summer Festival, which was an all-Richard Strauss program, will be released by Decca in the summer of 2019. Accentus Music will release a DVD of their all-Ravel program, which was recorded live in Lucerne in the summer of 2018, in May 2019.

Guest performances led by Claudio Abbado have taken the orchestra to date to many cities in Europe, as well as to New York, Moscow, Tokyo, and Beijing. The orchestra toured Europe with Andris Nelsons in the autumn of 2015. In October 2017, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra went on tour to Asia, Japan, South Korea, and China for the first time with its new Music Director Riccardo Chailly. The orchestra's first Shanghai residency followed in October 2018, with four concerts at Shanghai Symphony Hall and an open-air concert, as well as a guest performance at Teatro alla Scala in Milan, the home of Music Director Riccardo Chailly. In October 2019, additional concerts in Beijing and Shenzhen as well as another concert in Milan are planned in addition to the Shanghai residency.

16 August | 18.30 | Opening Concert | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Riccardo Chailly conductor | **Denis Matsuev** piano

Sergei Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30 | *Vocalise*, Op. 34, no. 14, orchestral version | **Symphony No. 3** in A minor, Op. 44

17 August | 18.30 | Symphony Concert 1 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Riccardo Chailly conductor | **Denis Matsuev** piano

Sergei Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30

Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky **Symphony No. 4** in F minor, Op. 36

22 August | 19.30 | Symphony Concert 4 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Yannick Nézet-Séguin conductor | **Leonidas Kavakos** violin

Ludwig van Beethoven Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61

Dmitri Shostakovich **Symphony No. 4** in C minor, Op. 43

24 August | 18.30 | Symphony Concert 6 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Riccardo Chailly conductor

Gustav Mahler **Symphony No. 6** in A minor

Nestlé S.A. – Partner Lucerne Festival Orchestra

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