



Media Release

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra's First Tour with Riccardo Chailly in October 2017

Stops on their major Asian tour to include Tokyo, Kawasaki, Kyoto, Seoul, and Beijing

Lucerne, 10 July 2017. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will undertake its first-ever tour with Music Director Riccardo Chailly in the fall of 2017. Between 6 and 15 October, the Orchestra will perform twice at Suntory Hall in Tokyo (6 and 7 October), where it last appeared to acclaim in 2006 under the direction of Claudio Abbado. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will also make its first appearance at MUZA Kawasaki Symphony Hall in Kawasaki (8 October) and at Kyoto Concert Hall (9 October), followed by its debut in South Korea at Lotte Concert Hall in Seoul (12 October). The tour will conclude with two concerts at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing. The Orchestra performed there most recently in 2009, likewise with Claudio Abbado.

The first of the two concert programs on the tour will be the same as that for the Opening Concert of the Summer Festival in Lucerne, which takes place on 11 August 2017 and offers three tone poems by Richard Strauss: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Op. 30, *Death and Transfiguration*, Op. 24, and *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, Op. 28. The second program will present the *Egmont Overture* and the Eighth Symphony by Ludwig van Beethoven, as well as *Le Sacre du printemps* by Igor Stravinsky.

Among the orchestra principals for this Asian tour are concertmasters Gregory Ahss and Raphael Christ, the violist Wolfram Christ, the bassist Slawomir Grenda, the flutist Jacques Zoon, the oboist Lucas Macías Navarro, the clarinetist Alessandro Carbonare, the bassoonists Matthias Racz and Guillaume Santana, as well as the horn player Ivo Gass, the trumpeter Reinhold Friedrich, the trombonist Jürgen van Rijen, and the timpanist Raymond Curfs. The members of the Orchestra once again include musicians from the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Hagen Quartet, and the Filarmonica della Scala.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra

When they founded the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in 2003, Claudio Abbado and Michael Haefliger forged a link with the very beginning of the Festival in Lucerne in 1938, when Arturo Toscanini brought together acclaimed virtuosos of the era to form a one-of-a-kind elite orchestra for a special "concert de gala." Each summer, Claudio Abbado invited renowned soloists, chamber musicians, and music teachers to Lucerne, where this "orchestra of friends" established its international reputation as one of the leading symphony orchestras. In the summer of 2016, Riccardo Chailly, one of the most sought-after conductors of our time, took over artistic direction of the orchestra. Born in 1953 in Milan, he has enjoyed a close association with the Festival since 1988, appearing here in many concerts in which he has led the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra.

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