



Media Release

The power of women in art, the beginning of a new era with Riccardo Chailly and Wolfgang Rihm, orchestral excellence, and a high total capacity of 90% – Lucerne Festival takes stock of its results for 2016

Lucerne, 14 December 2016. As 2016 draws to a close, Lucerne Festival takes stock of its results for the year and notes a strong figure of 90% total capacity for all events to which tickets were sold, with 85,400 visitors to the three Festivals: at Easter, in Summer, and at the Piano. In addition, some 20,400 people attended the numerous free and ancillary events, bringing the total number of visitors to 105,800. The theme of “PrimaDonna” for the Summer Festival, the start of Riccardo Chailly’s tenure as Music Director of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra as well as of Wolfgang Rihm’s tenure as Artistic Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy, and the most sought-after symphony orchestras and soloists in the world all made this a year of setting significant artistic examples, in Lucerne as well as internationally.

The **Easter Festival** commemorated the late founder of the Academy, Pierre Boulez, with a concert given by alumni of the Lucerne Festival Academy, while, as artist-in-residence, Jordi Savall presented both sacred and secular works in a wide variety of formations and atmospheres in the KKL Luzern and in Lucerne’s churches. During the **Summer**, with its theme of “PrimaDonna,” the Festival focused on the role of women in music, putting its finger on the artistic and social-political pulse of today especially through its presentation of 15 women conductors: along with Switzerland’s print media, *The New York Times*, *The Times* and the *FAZ* reported on the Festival, while SRF produced the TV documentary “Maestras” About 5,000 people attended the Special Event Day on 21 August, in which Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Anu Tali, Maria Schneider, Elena Schwarz and Konstantia Gourzi performed.

Riccardo Chailly launched his tenure as the new Music Director of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra with Gustav Mahler’s Eighth Symphony, while with the inaugural Composer Seminar Wolfgang Rihm made his debut as Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy and Matthias Pintscher took on his role for the first time as Principal Conductor of the Academy. The leading international symphony orchestras and their conductors, such as the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, once again this year made Lucerne into an epicenter for symphonic music. Such sought-after conductors as Kirill Petrenko, Tugan Sokhiev, Emmanuelle Haïm, and Marin Alsop made their debuts at Lucerne Festival. Olga Neuwirth was presented as composer-in-residence, and as the Festival’s “artistes étoiles,” all of the female artists who performed were given a spotlight – from such debut artists as Elim Chan and Asya Fateyeva to major stars like Anne-Sophie Mutter and Cecilia Bartoli.

Lucerne Festival Young combined dance and music and staged the Young Performance production “Divamania,” which will tour Switzerland in the spring of 2017. Such innovative concert formats as the admission-free 40min series and Interval, the new lounge concept that serves as a meeting place for artists and audiences, set the tone for the future. The Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival celebrated its 50th anniversary with an exclusive concert by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly. The **Piano Festival** welcomed such newcomers as Kit Armstrong and Louis Schwizgebel and acclaimed stars like Grigory Sokolov and Igor Levit, as well as the organist Cameron Carpenter, who played in Lucerne for the first time.



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

This year Lucerne Festival was also well represented throughout Switzerland and abroad. In 2016 the Young Performance production “Fensadense” toured to various Swiss cities and elsewhere in Europe, the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy opened the Elbphilharmonie's season in Hamburg, and, in April, a group of former Academy participants, known as the Alumni, performed in three concerts at the NY Phil Biennial in New York; the curator and soloist of the latter event, cellist Jay Campbell, will appear in the coming 2017 Summer Festival as the youngest “artiste étoile” to date. The theme for the Summer Festival will be “Identity.”

Film with the highlights of the year 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1gojhxKfWg&t=2s>

Press-Photos of the year 2016

<https://www.lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos>

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