

Beethoven Cycle with Igor Levit
during the 2019 Summer Festival, the 2019 Piano Festival, and the 2020 Year of Beethoven



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Starting in the 2019 Summer Festival, Igor Levit will perform all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas over the course of eight evenings. After launching his Beethoven cycle during the upcoming Summer Festival, he will continue it in two recitals at the 2019 Piano Festival and extend the cycle into 2020, when the 250th birthday of the composer will be celebrated. In the Summer of 2019, Levit will begin with a focus on one of his favorites among the 32 sonatas, the *Waldstein* Sonata in C major, Op. 53. Some of the concerts in the cycle will present the sonatas in chronological order, while others have been arranged by Levit according to criteria based on program context. He considers the questions that Beethoven posed to himself when composing these works to be still highly relevant for us today. Philosophical and political ideas are not just a matter of theory for Levit but are inseparably linked with his creative work as a pianist, as is apparent from his social media presence as well as in the numerous interviews that he gave in 2018 in such media as the *SZ-Magazin* and the *Tages-Anzeiger* magazine. He has agreed to participate as a guest speaker at this year's NZZ podium panel discussion on the theme of "Power" on 1 September, the Special Event Day.

Beethoven Cycle at the 2019 Summer Festival

21.08. | 19.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall
Recital 2 – Piano

Beethoven Piano Sonata in G major, Op. 79
Piano Sonata in A-flat major, Op. 26
Piano Sonata in F minor, Op. 2, no. 1
Piano Sonata in C major, Op. 53 *Waldstein* Sonata

25.08. | 11.00 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Recital 3 – Piano

Beethoven Piano Sonata in F-sharp major, Op. 78
Piano Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 7
Piano Sonata in E major, Op. 14, no. 1
Piano Sonata in G major, Op. 14, no. 2
Piano Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 81a *Les Adieux*

01.09. | 17.00 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium

NZZ Podium

"Spiel und Schrecken" ("Play and Terror") Panel discussion with Igor Levit, former Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey, business journalist Rainer Hank, Lucerne Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger, and moderator Martin Meyer, Head of the NZZ Podium (in German)

Biography | Igor Levit piano

The pianist **Igor Levit** was born in 1987 in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, and began his piano training at the age of three. In 1995, his family moved to Germany, where Levit continued his studies with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Matti Raekallio, and Bernd Goetzke in Hanover and later with Hans Leygraf at the Salzburg Mozarteum. In 2005, he won four prizes at the Rubinstein Competition in Tel Aviv in 2005 and was additionally a winner in the Hamamatsu Competition in Japan. Levit soon began appearing with such renowned orchestras as the Berlin Philharmonic; the Cleveland Orchestra; the Bavarian Radio Symphony; the Dresden Staatskapelle; the Boston and London Symphony Orchestras; and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam. In the summer of 2018, he made his debuts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival and with the Vienna Philharmonic at the Salzburg Festival; he will make his first appearance with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in March 2019. Levit's schedule for the 2018-19 season includes recitals in Vienna, Munich, Paris, and Tokyo, and he will also make three solo appearances at London's Wigmore Hall. Among his major projects is the complete cycle of 32 piano sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven, which he will also perform at Lucerne Festival beginning in 2019. Levit devoted his debut recording, which was released in 2013, to Beethoven's last three piano sonatas. His account of Bach's six Partitas followed in 2014, and in 2015 he released an album containing Bach's *Goldbergs* and Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* as well as Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*. He received *Gramophone's* Recording of the Year and Best Instrumental Recording Awards in 2016. *Life* (2018), his most recent release, contains the works by Bach, Busoni, Schumann, and Liszt. Igor Levit received the Gilmore Artist Award in 2018.

Igor Levit made his Festival debut on 11 September 2011 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Vladimir Jurowski performing Scriabin's *Prométhée*. He made his solo debut at the Festival with a recital in 2015. At the 2016 Piano Festival, he performed Bach's Goldberg Variations, and he returned in 2018 with a program of works from his current CD *Life*.

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