



“Artiste étoile” Leonidas Kavakos 2019 Summer Festival



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The Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos will launch his residency as “artiste étoile” in Lucerne not with one of the grand violin concertos but with an intimate chamber concert: together with Yuja Wang, he will play violin sonatas by Mozart, Prokofiev and Strauss, as well as Bartók’s Rhapsody No. 1 for Violin and Piano Sz 86. In a concert with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, he will then perform Beethoven’s Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61. For his performance with the Mariinsky Orchestra, instead of a violin concerto he will play three shorter works: Sibelius’s Second Serenade, Op. 69; Chausson’s *Poème*; and Ravel’s *Tzigane*. Korngold’s Violin Concerto is on the program for his concert with the Vienna Philharmonic led by Andrés Orozco-Estrada.

Since his debut in 1999, Kavakos has to date made eight guest appearances at the Festival. For example, he has played violin concertos by Mozart and Bartók and in 2017 performed the Brahms Violin Concerto with the Filarmonica della Scala under Riccardo Chailly. His most recent appearance here, in the summer of 2018, was with Shostakovich’s First Violin Concerto and the Munich Philharmonic under Valery Gergiev.

Biography | Leonidas Kavakos

Leonidas Kavakos, who was born in 1967 in Athens, began playing violin at the age of five. He completed his studies with Stelios Kafantaris at the conservatory of his native city and with Josef Gingold at the University of Indiana. In 1985 Kavakos triumphed at the Sibelius Competition in Helsinki, and in 1988 he won the Naumburg Violin Competition in New York and the Premio Paganini in Genoa. Since then he has performed as a soloist with many renowned orchestras, including the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Dresden Staatskapelle, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Filarmonica della Scala, the Chicago Symphony, and the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonics under such conductors as Riccardo Chailly, Valery Gergiev, Bernard Haitink, Mariss Jansons, and Sir Simon Rattle. Kavakos himself has increasingly taken up conducting and had led the London, Boston, and Houston Symphony Orchestras; the Budapest Festival Orchestra; the New York and Rotterdam Philharmonics; the Vienna Symphony; the Chamber Orchestra of Europe; and the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. In the 2017-18



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season he served as artist-in-residence at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and the Vienna Musikverein, and he will take on this position with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in the 2018-19 season as well.

In the realm of chamber music, Kavakos plays as part of a trio with Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma and in a duo with Yuja Wang. His cycle of the complete Beethoven sonatas with his longstanding duo partner Enrico Pace won the Echo Klassik Award in 2013, and in 2014 he received *Gramophone's* Artist of the Year Award. His most recent release, from the fall of 2017, is of the complete Brahms piano trios with Ax and Ma. Kavakos leads an annual master class in violin and chamber music in Athens. Recipient of the Léonie Sonning Music Prize in 2017, he plays the "Willemotte" Stradivari from 1734.

with **Yuja Wang** piano

Recital 1 – violin

19.08. | 19.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Mozart Violin Sonata in B-flat major, K. 454 |

Prokofiev Violin Sonata No. 1, in F minor,

Op. 80 | **Bartók** Rhapsody No. 1 for Violin and Piano Sz 86 | **Strauss** Violin Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 18

with the **Lucerne Festival Orchestra** and **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** conductor

Symphony Concert 4

22.08. | 19.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

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

with the **Mariinsky Orchestra** and **Valery Gergiev** conductor

Symphony Concert 13

31.08. | 18.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Sibelius Serenade in G minor, Op. 69, no. 2 |

Chausson *Poème*, Op. 25 | **Ravel** *Tzigane*

with the **Vienna Philharmonic** and **Andrés Orozco-Estrada** conductor

Symphony Concert 18

05.09. | 19.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Korngold Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35

Contacts for Press and Public Relations

Nina Steinhart, Head of PR | n.steinhart@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 43

Katharina Schillen | k.schillen@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 59