



Media Release

Favorable Results as the “Summer of Childhood” Draws to a Close: 79,400 People Attended Lucerne Festival

Lucerne, 14 September 2018. With a total of 79,400 concertgoers attending the 2018 Summer Festival held from 17 August to 16 September, Lucerne Festival reports very positive results this year. The 78 events to which tickets were sold had an average capacity of 89% and attracted 65,400 concertgoers, which is 800 more than the figure from last year; 14 concerts were sold out. The 32 symphony concerts had an average capacity of 90%. In addition, Lucerne Festival offered 37 free events, which drew a total of 14,000 visitors. The Special Event Day on the Festival theme of “Childhood” alone attracted 5,200 music fans of all age levels to the KKL Luzern, while those attending the ten events in the popular, admission-free “40min” series totaled 4,600. The “In the Streets” Festival also had a strong turnout this year, with approximately 5,200 people attending.

The 80th Summer Festival will conclude with a rich array of events throughout this weekend, including several family events, symphony concerts, music theater, chamber music, artist interviews, and more. On Saturday at 4.30 pm, Omer Meir Wellber will conduct the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra with Gidon Kremer as the soloist. There will be two offerings in cooperation with the Luzerner Theater: a staged version of Gustav Mahler’s *Kindertotenlieder* at 7.00 pm and the project *Trommel mit Mann* (“Drum with Man”) by composer-in-residence Fritz Hauser at 9.00 pm. Cecilia Bartoli will then conclude the Summer Festival on Sunday with a semi-staged performance of Rossini’s comic opera *La cenerentola* at 5.00 pm. In addition, the slapstick opera *Im Amt für Todesangelegenheiten* (“In the Office for Death Affairs”) by Klaus von Heydenaber will be performed at the Luzerner Theater on Sunday at 1.30 pm, and there will also be two showings of the successful production *HEROÏCA* by “artiste étoile” Dan Tanson (at 11.00 am and 3.00 pm).

The Summer Festival took up the theme of “Childhood” at the outset on the opening weekend with the first Orchestra Camp, which was conducted in cooperation with Superar Suisse and which involved some 130 children. On 26 August there followed the marathon Special Event Day offering a colorful program of chamber and orchestral concerts for families, including such fare as *Schraffur* by composer-in-residence Fritz Hauser, a family concert with “artiste étoile” Sol Gabetta, and world music as part of the “In the Streets” Festival. There was in addition a “Wunderkind” series showcasing child prodigies, which presented such artists as the 13-year-old composer Alma Deutscher, along with other concerts featuring young soloists and youth orchestras.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra opened the Summer Festival for the third year in a row under the leadership of its Music Director Riccardo Chailly, with the star pianist Lang Lang as the soloist, and played two additional symphonic programs containing music by Maurice Ravel and Richard Wagner as well as the Seventh Symphony of Anton Bruckner. The Lucerne Festival Academy focused on works by Karlheinz Stockhausen, to whom the Festival paid tribute with a series of eight concerts to honor the late composer’s 90th birthday. Peter Eötvös worked with this year’s Academy participants to prepare the spectacular orchestral work *INORI*, and as a significant highlight of the Academy this summer, Sir Simon Rattle, Jaehyuck Choi, and Duncan Ward presented two performances of Stockhausen’s *GRUPPEN* in cooperation with the London Symphony Orchestra. Peter Eötvös’s *Reading Malevich*, a new work presented as part of the Roche Commissions series, was given its world premiere by the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy.

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LUCERNE FESTIVAL

As part of the *räsonanz* Donor Concert, which is a cooperation of the Festival with the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation and Bavarian Radio's *musica viva* initiative, works by Beethoven, Kurtág, Schoenberg, and Holliger were heard. Sir Simon Rattle was additionally on the podium for the first time in Lucerne as the new Chief Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, which he led in three symphonic programs.

Lucerne Festival Young presented *Senegalliarde*, the new production by Dan Tanson, as well as the family concert *Domande – Fragen* jointly with the Teatro Dimitri. The Swiss artist Fritz Hauser's appearances included two world premieres of his own works: *Rundum* and the production "Chor-trommel". Sol Gabetta was on the stage as the soloist in three major cello concertos, by Martinů, Haydn, and Elgar, with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, respectively.

These three as well as other major international orchestras once again formed the centerpiece of this year's Summer Festival in Lucerne. The Berlin Philharmonic appeared for the first time with its principal conductor designate, Kirill Petrenko, and also marked the 60th anniversary of its Lucerne debut. The Chamber Orchestra of Europe performed under the baton of Bernard Haitink and Heinz Holliger, the Vienna Philharmonic under Franz Welser-Möst (and with solo cellist Kian Soltani, winner of this year's Credit Suisse Young Artist Award), and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam under both Manfred Honeck and Bernard Haitink. In addition to Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra returned to Lucerne with François-Xavier Roth, as did Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. The Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra was led by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Munich Philharmonic by Valery Gergiev, and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic by Yuri Temirkanov. Among the soloists this summer were the violinists Lisa Batiashvili, Renaud Capuçon, Leonidas Kavakos, and Baiba Skride; the singers Elsa Dreisig and Magdalena Kožená; and the pianists Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Yefim Bronfman, Lang Lang, Sergei Redkin, Daniil Trifonov, Yuja Wang, and Krystian Zimerman.

Press photos are available at lucernefestival.ch/de/presse/fotos

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Summer Festival

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Information on purchasing tickets can be found at:
lucernefestival.ch/en/program/summer-festival-2018

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