



Media Release

2020 Summer Festival | Thematic Overview | 14 August to 13 September 2020

The Festival Theme, inspired by Beethoven, is "Joy"

Strong focus on the young generation of artists: The new Pre-Festival "Music for Future"

Lucerne Festival Orchestra with Riccardo Chailly and Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Sylvain Cambreling and David Robertson to collaborate with the Lucerne Festival Academy

The Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Alumni will pair works by Saunders and Stravinsky

Woman Power: Rebecca Saunders is composer-in-residence and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla the "artiste étoile"

Lucerne, 12 February 2020. This year's Festival theme is "Joy" and is inspired by Ludwig van Beethoven, whose 250th birthday is being celebrated in 2020. His music has become a byword for vital energy and conveys a sense of joy and meaning. Lucerne Festival will celebrate these concerts as emotional events that connect and bring together people of the most diverse backgrounds, ways of thinking, and cultures.

Beethoven's works form a central core of this year's Festival programming. Thus all nine symphonies will be performed by a variety of the best-known international symphony orchestras. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will open the Summer Festival with the First Symphony, led by Riccardo Chailly, and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique under Sir John Eliot Gardiner will perform Beethoven's Ninth at its conclusion. Among the other ensembles appearing in the Beethoven symphony series are the Vienna Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouworkest, Il Giardino Armonico, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra.

Other Beethoven-related programs will feature such artists as Sir András Schiff and the tenor Jan Peřyka in the lieder cycle *An die ferne Geliebte* ("To the Distant Beloved") and Igor Levit, who continues his ongoing cycle of the complete Beethoven piano sonatas. The Summer Festival program will additionally include the *Missa Solemnis* with Sir John Eliot Gardiner; the Violin Concerto, which Anne-Sophie Mutter will perform with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Manfred Honeck; the First Piano concerto with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Martha Argerich, and the Third Piano Concerto, with Daniil Trifonov and the Berlin Philharmonic under Kirill Petrenko.

The popular Special Event Day on 30 August 2020 will become Beethoven Day, an homage to the composer offering such events as Beethoven string quartets, an arrangement of the opera *Fidelio* for children, and a Beethoven program with the Royal Concertgebouworkest in the evening. In a series of five exclusive events Lucerne Festival will explore correspondences and connections between the late work of the poet Friedrich Hölderlin and Ludwig van Beethoven. And the extraordinary Beethoven project "Beethoven NINE!" will stage the Ninth Symphony as an electronic sound installation and bring it into the City of Lucerne and into the Luzerner Theater.

New at Lucerne Festival: "Music for Future"

Three days before the Summer Festival, the pre-Festival "Music for Future" will be launched. This is a new program focus that further expands on one of the Festival's central areas of commitment,



namely, supporting young people. Beginning on 11 August, it will present the young generation of musicians in four projects. The Russian National Youth Orchestra perform under the direction of Valentin Uryupin; the 13-year-old violinist Leia Zhu will appear in a recital at the Lukaskirche; and the ten-piece ensemble from the organization "Brass for Africa," which supports children in Africa with music lessons, will give an open-air concert in Lucerne. The fourth project is a continuation of the Music Camp in cooperation with Superar Suisse, now in its third year — and this time with choreographers Tamara McLorg and Royston Maldoom, who became famous through the film "Rhythm Is It!"

The Lucerne Festival Academy and Alumni

During the course of this year's Lucerne Festival Academy, the conductors David Robertson and Sylvain Cambreling will direct important project segments, and the Arditti Quartet, the pianist Nicolas Hodges, and the percussionist Christian Dierstein are among the guest faculty who will serve as coaches. Works by Pierre Boulez that will be presented as part of the new concert series "Cosmos Boulez" will be a significant focus. At the suggestion of Wolfgang Rihm, pieces by the Academy's late founder Pierre Boulez that were withdrawn during his own lifetime or that remained uncompleted, *Polyphonie X* and *Livre pour cordes* will be revived and performed again. Sylvain Cambreling will conduct the orchestral concert at the conclusion of this summer's Lucerne Festival Academy, which will include the world premiere of Rebecca Saunders' new piano concerto written for Nicolas Hodges as the latest work in the Roche Commissions program.

The Alumni will also give an orchestral concert this summer, under the direction of the Russian conductor Ilan Volkov. He will lead the Alumni Orchestra in Wolfgang Rihm's *Sub-Kontur* as well as in two Swiss premieres of works by Rebecca Saunders. In the Composer Seminar led by Wolfgang Rihm, the Academy's Artistic Director, an 11-member ensemble of Lucerne Festival Alumni will be on hand during the musical workshop phase. They will then present the works completed by the young composers in a retrospective at the end of August and in a 40min concert.

This year's hosted 40min series includes nine events, which are free and offer insights into rehearsals or provide an appetizer for an upcoming concert. These feature prominent Festival artists, orchestras, Academy students, or Alumni.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra with Riccardo Chailly and Guest Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin

At the Festival's Opening Concert, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Music Director Riccardo Chailly will perform the respective First Symphonies by Ludwig van Beethoven and Gustav Mahler. Martha Argerich will appear on their second concert program as the soloist in Beethoven's First Piano Concerto. Chailly will also continue the Rachmaninoff that he embarked on last summer with that composer's Second Symphony and Second Piano Concerto featuring Denis Matsuev as the soloist. Yannick Nézet-Séguin will again make a guest appearance to conduct the orchestra in a program of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony and Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony.

This year, a Late Night program presented by the Brass Ensemble and String Soloists of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will revive the Lucerne Festival Orchestra's tradition of chamber and ensemble concerts.



Leading Symphony Orchestras in the Lineup

In addition to the previously named orchestras, the Berlin Philharmonic under Kirill Petrenko, the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle, Les Musiciens du Prince under Gianluca Capuano with Cecilia Bartoli, and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under "artiste étoile" Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla are among this summer's guest orchestras coming to Lucerne. Sir George Benjamin will conduct the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Philippe Herreweghe will lead the Royal Concertgebouworkest in Haydn's *The Creation*, and Daniel Barenboim and Lahav Shani will helm the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. The Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra will make its Festival debut under Susanna Mälkki. The Munich Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony complete this top-quality list of internationally acclaimed guest orchestras. The Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, the most important local orchestra, is also on the program. Valentine Michaud, winner of the 2020 Credit Suisse Young Artist Award, will perform with the Vienna Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel.

"Artiste étoile" Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, who made her successful Lucerne debut in 2016 with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, is the first female conductor to take on the position of "artiste étoile." In keeping with the theme of "Joy," she will conduct Holst's *The Planets* (with its "Jupiter, of Jollity" movement). The program for her second concert with her orchestra includes Debussy's *La Mer* and Saint-Saëns' First Cello Concerto with Gautier Capuçon as the soloist. She will moreover perform as a singer at a Late Night concert featuring Arabic love songs.

Composer-in-Residence Rebecca Saunders

The retrospective of works by the British composer Rebecca Saunders, who received the renowned Ernst von Siemens Music Prize last year, will comprise a total of 15 works, including three world premieres and five Swiss premieres. In addition, her triptych of three instrumental concertos — *Still* for violin and orchestra, *void* for two percussionists and orchestra, and *Alba* for trumpet and orchestra — will be performed in its entirety for the first time within the span of a few days.

Contemporary Music and Performances

The Summer Festival program includes a total of ten world premieres as well as numerous Swiss premieres. For the *räsonanz* – Donor Concert, which involves a collaboration of the Festival with the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation and Bavarian Radio's musica viva program, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra led by Susanna Mälkki will perform Ammann's *The Piano Concerto (Gran Toccata)* with Andreas Haefliger as the soloist as well as works by Saariaho, Sibelius, and Nørgård. Sir George Benjamin will lead the Mahler Chamber Orchestra in the Swiss premiere of a new work that he has recently composed.

Young: Events for Children and Families

Three Young productions can be enjoyed at this year's Summer Festival: "ViolínViolá" by violinist Eleonora Savini and violist Federico Carraro; "Paris! Paris!", a staged musical journey through time by the group Die Schurken ("The Desperadoes"); and Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* in a version by Taschenoper Lübeck. In addition, starting this summer, Lucerne Festival is expanding its offers to include school students in Lucerne. Therefore, the above-mentioned productions will be offered to schools in Lucerne, and the Festival will additionally host an exclusive School Concert featuring the

brass section of the Berlin Philharmonic and Sarah Willis on both 1 and 2 September in the KKL Lucerne Concert Hall.

The Debut series will introduce seven young artists and ensembles on the threshold of international careers: the violist Timothy Ridout, the pianist Daniel Ciobanu, the oboist Salomo Schweizer, the violinist Dmitry Smirnov, the pianist Zee Zee, the ensemble Connaught Brass, and the Viano String Quartet.

This year the Festival "In the Streets" featuring world music groups will again take place from 25 to 30 August on the Europaplatz as well as in the City of Lucerne.

Online ticket sales for the Summer Festival begin on 23 March 2020 at 12.00 noon Lucerne time.

Summer Festival

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