

Lucerne Festival Academy | Lucerne Festival Alumni 15 August to 6 September 2020

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

The Alumni will focus on works by composer-in-residence Rebecca Saunders and Wolfgang Rihm's *Sub-Kontur*

This year's Summer Festival brings the 17th edition of the Lucerne Festival Academy since it was founded by Pierre Boulez and Michael Haefliger. Just as it did from the start, the Academy represents an important strategic pillar of the Festival: supporting young musicians, conductors, and composers in the field of 20th- and 21st- century music. Since 2019, the Academy, which launches the day after the Festival's official opening and runs until 30 August, has additionally been joined during a phase of its work by the Lucerne Festival Alumni, who comprise former participants in the Lucerne Festival Academy. The Alumni have developed into a centrally important domain of the Festival both in Lucerne and abroad and demonstrate the enduring effect of the Academy's work. A total of almost 100 musicians has been invited to the Academy and the Alumni Week in Lucerne this year as well.

Areas of Focus for the Lucerne Festival Academy

Each year, Wolfgang Rihm, the Academy's Artistic Director, invites selected composers and conductors to Lucerne as guests to lead particular project phases. This summer, the guests include the conductors David Robertson and Sylvain Cambreling. The American David Robertson will collaborate with the young orchestral musicians on the work *Nether* by composer-in-residence Rebecca Saunders as well as on *Livre pour cordes* and *Éclat/Multiples* by Pierre Boulez. In another concert, the students of the Academy will contribute to this year's focus on "Cosmos Boulez." Lin Liao will conduct them in *Polyphony X*, a work that Boulez withdrew during his career. The highlight of the 2020 Academy will be a symphony concert conducted by Sylvain Cambreling. The program includes the world premiere of Rebecca Saunders' 2020 Roche Commissions score, as well as works by Webern, Stravinsky, and Xenakis.

Highlights with the Lucerne Festival Alumni

Percussionists Dirk Rothbrust and Christian Dierstein as well as trumpeter Marco Blaauw, who have been working with composer-in-residence Rebecca Saunders for many years, will enhance the Academy as lecturers. And they will additionally appear as soloists with the Alumni, who will also be performing a major symphony concert this summer — this time under the direction of the Russian conductor Ilan Volkov. The program includes Wolfgang Rihm's *Sub-Kontur* and two works by Rebecca Saunders in their Swiss premieres. The Composer Seminar led by Academy Director Wolfgang Rihm will moreover be accompanied during the musical work phase by an 11-member ensemble of Lucerne Festival Alumni, who will present the young composers' completed works in a showcase at the end of August and in a 40min concert. On 7 September, the Lucerne Festival Alumni will be guest performers at Musikfest Berlin under the direction of Ilan Volkov.

About the Lucerne Festival Alumni

The **Lucerne Festival Alumni** is an ever-expanding network drawn from the more than 1,200 former Lucerne Festival Academy participants. They include instrumentalists, conductors, and composers from all over the world. The Alumni are not only present in Lucerne during the Festival but also act as

international ambassadors of Lucerne Festival and perform in various countries. Some noteworthy projects in recent years have included two concerts in January 2018 in Brooklyn, NY, featuring music by Olga Neuwirth and Frank Zappa, and *The Big Wig* with Andreas Schaerer, which has also toured Germany and the recording of which has won numerous prizes.

About the Lucerne Festival Academy

The **Lucerne Festival Academy** was founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez and Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger. Every summer, Academy participants work on contemporary scores and modern classics with the most internationally renowned composers and conductors of the new music scene. The composer Wolfgang Rihm has served as the Academy's Artistic Director since 2016. Through daily rehearsals, workshops, and lessons, participants are given the tools necessary to perform new music. Works from the "curriculum" are then performed in orchestral concerts and ensemble programs. Following each summer's conclusion of the Academy, the orchestra gives concerts outside Switzerland. In recent years, the musicians have performed at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg; in 2018 they brought Stockhausen's *INORI*, a project that received the highest international acclaim, to Berlin and Paris.

17 August to 21 August | daily 10.00–11.30 and 12.00–13.30 | KKL Luzern, Clubraum 8

Composer Seminar with Wolfgang Rihm, Dieter Ammann, and additional guest teachers including Rebecca Saunders, Marco Blaauw, and others

22 August | 11.00 | **Cosmos Boulez 1** | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Academy | **Lin Liao** conductor

Pierre Boulez *Polyphonie X* for 18 Instruments (two performances) | **Samir Amarouch** and **Victor Coltea** new works (world premieres)

23 August | 16.00 | **Cosmos Boulez 3** | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy | **David Robertson** conductor | **Juliet Fraser** soprano

Pierre Boulez *Livre pour cordes* | *Éclat/Multiples* for orchestra | **Rebecca Saunders** *Nether* for soprano and ensemble (Swiss premiere)

26 August | 18.20 | **40min** | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy | **Sylvain Cambreling** | **Participants in the Conducting Fellowship**

"The Art of Conducting"

28 August | 18.20 | **40min** | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Alumni | **Students of the Composer Seminar** | **Wolfgang Rihm**

"Classical Music That Is Written Today"

29 August | 14.00 | **Closing Concert of the Composer Seminar** | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Alumni

Pierre Boulez *Initiale* for seven brass players | **Composer Seminar Work Showcase**

29 August | 18.30 | **Symphony Concert 13** | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy | **Sylvain Cambreling** conductor | **Nicolas Hodges** piano

Anton Webern Variations, Op. 30 | **Igor Stravinsky** *Movements* | **Iannis Xenakis** *Shaar* | **Anton Webern** Symphony, Op. 21 | **Igor Stravinsky** *Variations (Aldous Huxley in memoriam)* | **Rebecca Saunders** new work for piano and orchestra (Roche Commissions world premiere)

3 September | 18.20 | **40min** | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Alumni | **Ilan Volkov** conductor
"Spotlight on Rebecca Saunders"

5 September | 22.00 | **Late Night 4** | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Dirk Rothbrust and **Christian Dierstein** percussion | **Marco Blaauw** trumpet | **Soloists of the Lucerne Festival Alumni**

Rebecca Saunders *dust* for percussion | *Neither* for four double-bell trumpets (world premieres of the new versions)

6 September | 11.00 | **Symphony Concert 21** | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Alumni | **Ilan Volkov** conductor | **Dirk Rothbrust** and **Christian Dierstein** percussion | **Marco Blaauw** trumpet

Rebecca Saunders *blaauw* for double-bell trumpet | **Wolfgang Rihm** *Sub-Kontur* for orchestra (Swiss premiere) | **Rebecca Saunders** *void* for two percussionists and orchestra | *Alba* for trumpet and orchestra (Swiss premieres)

Roche – Main Sponsor and Partner of the Lucerne Festival Academy

Swiss Re – Partner of the Lucerne Festival Alumni

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