

Lucerne Festival Orchestra in the Summer of 2018

With the founding of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, which was introduced to the public in August 2003, the conductor Claudio Abbado and the Festival's Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger established a link with the moment in which the Festival itself was born in Lucerne. It was with the legendary "Concert de Gala" in 1938 that Arturo Toscanini assembled celebrated virtuosos of his time into a unique orchestra of elite musicians. With this as a model, internationally acclaimed principals, chamber musicians, and music teachers join together every summer around a core of players from the ranks of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra to form a world-class ensemble. Up until his death in January 2014, Claudio Abbado served as Artistic Director of this "orchestra of friends," as he himself called it. In August 2014 and 2015, the Orchestra performed four concerts led by Bernard Haitink and Andris Nelsons that featured works by Johannes Brahms, Frédéric Chopin, Joseph Haydn, and Gustav Mahler.

Starting in 2016, Riccardo Chailly took on the role of Music Director. He launched his tenure with a performance of Gustav Mahler's Eighth Symphony, the "Symphony of a Thousand," thus completing the Mahler cycle that Abbado had not been able to finish. Bernard Haitink additionally directed the Orchestra in Bruckner's Eighth Symphony in 2016.

In keeping with the Festival theme of "Childhood," the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will be joined by the soloist Lang Lang to open the 2018 Summer Festival with two works by Stravinsky, the chamber concerto *Dumbarton Oaks* and the fairy-tale ballet *The Firebird*, as well as Mozart's Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491. The Orchestra's second program is dedicated to the composer Maurice Ravel and will feature the *Valses nobles et sentimentales*, *La Valse*, the Suites No. 1 and No. 2 from the ballet *Daphnis et Chloé*, and *Boléro*. For their third program, Chailly will combine Wagner's overtures to *Rienzi* and *The Flying Dutchman* with Bruckner's Seventh Symphony. Riccardo Chailly celebrates the 30th anniversary of his debut at Lucerne Festival this summer.

Many of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra's performances over the past decade have been broadcast on television and subsequently released on DVD, garnering such distinctions as the Diapason d'Or, the BBC Music Magazine Award, and the International Classical Music Award. The Swiss premiere of Stravinsky's early *Chant funèbre* from 1909 took place on 19 August 2017 at last year's Summer Festival. That concert by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly was recorded and released on DECCA at the beginning of the year. In addition to offering the world's first recording of this work, the CD is exclusively devoted to Stravinsky and also contains accounts of *Feu d'artifice*, *Scherzo fantastique*, *Le Faune et la Bergère*, and *Le Sacre du Printemps*.

Guest performances to date have taken the Orchestra across Europe and to Moscow, New York, Tokyo, and Beijing, and, together with Andris Nelsons, to Hamburg, Dortmund, Paris, Luxembourg, Madrid, and Vienna as well. In October 2017, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra went on tour for the first time with its new Music Director to Asia, Japan, South Korea, and China. In total, around 8,800 concertgoers in Kawasaki, Kyoto, Seoul, and Beijing enjoyed the Lucerne Festival Orchestra's concerts conducted by Riccardo Chailly.

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Concerts | 2018 Summer Festival

17 August | 18.30/19.30 | Opening Concert

Stravinsky: *Dumbarton Oaks* | Mozart: Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491 |

Stravinsky: *The Firebird*. Fairy-tale ballet in two scenes (original version from 1909-10)

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Riccardo Chailly conductor | **Lang Lang** piano

19 August | 19.30 | Symphony Concert 3

Stravinsky: *Dumbarton Oaks* | Mozart: Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491 |

Stravinsky: *The Firebird*. Fairy-tale ballet in two scenes (original version from 1909-10)

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Riccardo Chailly conductor | **Lang Lang** piano

24 August | 19.30 | Symphony Concert 8

Ravel: *Valses nobles et sentimentales* | *La Valse*

Suites Nos. 1 and 2 from the ballet *Daphnis et Chloé* | *Boléro*

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Riccardo Chailly conductor

25 August | 18.30 | Symphony Concert 9

Wagner: Overture to *Rienzi* and Overture to *The Flying Dutchman* |

Bruckner: Symphony No. 7 in E major, WAB 107

Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Riccardo Chailly conductor

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