



Media Release

Felix Heri Named New Managing Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy and Alumni

Lucerne, 21 April 2020. Felix Heri will take over as Managing Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy and Alumni on 1 June. Heri joins the Festival from the Basel Sinfonietta, with which he first became involved in 2012; since 2013, he has served as Managing Director. Born in Deitingen/Solothurn in 1986, he studied clarinet at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, later obtaining a degree in the cultural management program at the University of Basel.

"We are very much looking forward to working with Felix Heri and extend a warm welcome to him," says Michael Haefliger, Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival. "Heri is a young, dynamic manager who will interface with musicians of his own generation in the Academy as well as among the Alumni. With his solid experience in the field of contemporary music and as a trained clarinetist, he comes equipped with the best qualifications to direct the Lucerne Festival Academy and Alumni and to provide fresh and important inspiration."

"Every year, the best and most creative artists from all around the world meet up in Lucerne to engage with contemporary music in a unique environment," remarks Felix Heri. "I very much look forward to being part of this first-class Festival and, together with the Festival team, to leading the Academy and Alumni forward into the future".

Along with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, the Lucerne Festival Academy is a central pillar of Lucerne Festival. It was founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez and Michael Haefliger, the Festival's Executive and Artistic Director. Every summer, young orchestra musicians, conductors, and composers from all around the world work with the most internationally renowned composers and conductors of the new music scene on both contemporary scores and modern classics. Since 2016, the Academy's Artistic Director has been the composer Wolfgang Rihm. The Lucerne Festival Alumni are a continually growing network comprising about 1,200 former students of the Lucerne Festival Academy. They not only have a presence in Lucerne during the summer but also act as international ambassadors for Lucerne Festival and perform in a variety of countries.

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