



## Media Release

### Piano Festival

16 to 24 November 2019

### Lucerne's Prelude to the Year of Beethoven in 2020: The Upcoming Celebration Will Be a Dominant Theme at the 2019 Piano Festival

Lucerne, 18 March 2019. Beethoven's piano concertos and sonatas, which rank among the most significant works of the keyboard literature, will be featured at this year's Piano Festival. It starts with a Beethoven weekend in the KKL Luzern Concert Hall, where Rudolf Buchbinder and the Festival Strings Lucerne will perform all five piano concertos over two concerts. Igor Levit will conclude the Festival by continuing his ongoing Beethoven cycle. Between these bookends, Mitsuko Uchida, the Russian master pianists Evgeny Kissin and Arcadi Volodos, and the up-and-coming Víkingur Ólafsson from Iceland will appear in recitals. The Debut Series will present Claire Huangci, Danae Doerken, and Alexander Ullman.

For decades, Rudolf Buchbinder has been acclaimed for his Beethoven performances. He will play the Second, Third, and Fourth Piano Concertos with the Festival Strings Lucerne on the concert that opens the Piano Festival; the following day he will continue with the First and Fifth Concertos. Igor Levit continues his ongoing cycle of all of the Beethoven piano sonatas with the third and fourth recital installments; in the course of these, he will play a total of nine sonatas, including the *Appassionata*, Op. 57. Two of the most sought-after Russian pianists of our time, Evgeny Kissin and Arcadi Volodos, can be heard on two consecutive days. Kissin will also present a Beethoven program, including such works as the Op. 13 *Pathétique* Sonata in C minor and the Op. 35 *Eroica Variations*. Arcadi Volodos will focus on Franz Liszt, combining his music with Robert Schumann's *Kreisleriana*, Op. 16. The *New York Times* describes Víkingur Ólafsson as the "Icelandic Glenn Gould," and the 35-year-old pianist is currently one of the most successful newcomers in the field. His recital will pair original works by J. S. Bach with various transcriptions, including arrangements by Sergei Rachmaninoff and Alexander Siloti. Mitsuko Uchida, who is regarded as one of the most important interpreters of Schubert today, will offer an all-Schubert evening comprising three sonatas: in A minor, D. 537; C major, D. 840; and B-flat major, D. 960.

Performing in the Debut concert series in the Lukaskirche will be Claire Huangci, winner of the first prize at the Concours Géza Anda in 2018; the German-Greek pianist Danae Doerken, who studied with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling and Lars Vogt; and the British pianist Alexander Ullman, who won the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Budapest in 2011. Martin Meyer will again be on hand this year to give two piano lectures based in part on the theme "Beethoven: Yesterday and Today."

The Piano Off-Stage jazz festival will have its traditional launch on Tuesday evening in a program at the KKL Luzern's Lucerne Hall showcasing eight international jazz pianists. They will then go on to play over the next five evenings in various Lucerne bars. In 2019 a master class will again be offered in cooperation with the Hochschule Luzern – Musik. Details will be announced at a later date.

Tickets may be purchased online starting 5 August 2019, 12.00 noon

Further information on ticket sales can be found at [www.lucernefestival.ch](http://www.lucernefestival.ch)

Concert Sponsor – Julius Bär

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