



Media Release

"Beethoven Farewell" | 20 to 22 November 2020

Patricia Kopatchinskaja and Igor Levit Will Focus on Ludwig van Beethoven's Legacy in the Inaugural Fall Weekend

Lucerne, 6 July 2020. The inaugural Fall Weekend, which the 2020 Lucerne Festival is presenting as part of the new Festival structure, will revolve around two artistic figures who are currently attracting attention through their radical and unusual performances: the violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja and the pianist Igor Levit. From 20 to 22 November, they will appear over the course of a multifaceted program of five concerts that will be presented in various formats.

"Beethoven Farewell" is the title of this musical weekend. Coming at the end of the Beethoven Year, it will engage with the work of Ludwig van Beethoven while at the same time focusing on the aftermath of this artist, as seen in works by such composers as Leoš Janáček, Charles Ives, and György Kurtág.

The musical weekend launches on Friday evening with a concert by the two artistic protagonists that also includes a musical-literary program based on the "Kreutzer Sonata" theme. At the end, Levit and Kopatchinskaja will play Beethoven's violin sonata of the same name, which decades later inspired Lev Tolstoy to write his novella *The Kreutzer Sonata*. The actor Michael Engelhardt will read not only from this work but also from Sofia Tolstaya's *Whose Fault?*, which was written as a response to her husband Tolstoy's book. The evening will open with Leoš Janáček's First String Quartet, performed by Kopatchinskaja and soloists from the Lucerne Festival Alumni in the ensemble version by Richard Tognetti. This piece is also a musical response to Tolstoy's novella. In addition, works by Patricia Kopatchinskaja and Márton Illés will be performed as contemporary commentaries.

On Saturday and Sunday, Igor Levit will present the grand finale of his complete Beethoven sonata cycle. Over the course of two recitals, he will perform the last six piano sonatas. Saturday's program includes the mighty *Hammerklavier Sonata*, while on Sunday he will concentrate on Beethoven's last three sonatas: Opp. 109-111 in E major, A-flat major, and C minor, respectively. Kopatchinskaja's concert program later on that Saturday will offer a contemporary counterpoint consisting of Michael Hersch's *sapped from me broken* for soprano, violin, and bassoon and György Kurtág's *Kafka Fragments* for soprano and violin. And as a related program for the Fall Weekend, the film "Ludwig van" by Mauricio Kagel, which was made in 1970 during the Beethoven bicentennial year, will be shown at the stattkino Luzern.

At the end of the "Beethoven Farewell" Weekend comes "Bye-Bye Beethoven," a concert staged by Patricia Kopatchinskaja that juxtaposes Beethoven's Violin Concerto with compositions that both preceded and followed his works, from Johann Sebastian Bach and Joseph Haydn to Charles Ives, John Cage, György Kurtág, Jorge Sánchez-Chiong, and Pauline Oliveros. These will be combined and played in an unusual way by an ensemble of musicians from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, the Lucerne Festival Alumni, and the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra.

Online ticket sales for the Fall Weekend start on 5 August 2020 at 12.00 noon (Lucerne time).

Friday, 20 November | 19:30 | **Kreutzer Sonata** | St. Karl

Patricia Kopatchinskaja violin | **Igor Levit** piano | **Michael Engelhardt** narrator |

Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Alumni

Leoš Janáček String Quartet No. 1 after Tolstoy's *Kreutzer Sonata*, arranged for ensemble by Richard Tognetti | Readings from **Lev Tolstoy's** *The Kreutzer Sonata* and **Sofia Tolstaya's** *Whose Fault?* | **Márton Illés** *Én-kör III (I-Circle)* for violin and cello | **PatKop** *Die Wut* ("The Rage") for violin and ensemble | **Ludwig van Beethoven** Violin Sonata in A major, Op. 47 *Kreutzer Sonata*

Saturday, 21 November | 15:00 and Sunday, 22 November | 11:00 | stattkino Luzern

"**Ludwig van**" Film by Mauricio Kagel | Germany 1969-70

Saturday, 21 November | 18:30 | **Hammerklavier Sonata** | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Igor Levit piano

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 90 | Piano Sonata in A major, Op. 101 | Piano Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 106 *Hammerklavier Sonata*

17:30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium | Introduction to the concert by Susanne Stähr (in German)

Saturday, 21 November | 21:00 | **Kafka Fragments** | Kirchensaal MaiHof

Ah Young soprano | **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** violin | **Bram van Sambeek** bassoon

Michael Hersch *sapped from me broken* for soprano, violin, and bassoon |

György Kurtág *Kafka Fragments* for soprano and violin, Op. 24

Sunday, 22 November | 13:00 | **Young** | event in cooperation with Kultissimo

Sunday, 22 November | 16:00 | **The Last Three Sonatas** | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Igor Levit piano

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Sonata in E major, Op. 109 | Piano Sonata in A-flat major, Op. 110 | Piano Sonata in C minor, Op. 111

15:00 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium | Introduction to the concert by Susanne Stähr (in German)

Sunday, 22 November | 19:30 | **Bye-Bye Beethoven** | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall |

In cooperation with the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra

Members of the **Lucerne Festival Orchestra**, the **Lucerne Festival Alumni**, and the **Lucerne Symphony Orchestra** | **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** violin and conductor | **Lani Tran-Duc** and **Louis Dupras** stage coordination | **Ricarda Schnoor** lighting | **Jonas Link** video

"**Bye-Bye Beethoven**" A staged concert featuring fragments and arrangements of works including **Charles Ives** *The Unanswered Question* | **Joseph Haydn** Symphony in F-sharp minor Hob. I:45 *Farewell Symphony* | **John Cage** *Once upon a time* from *Living Room Music* | **Johann Sebastian Bach** *Es ist genug* from the Cantata *O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort* BWV 60 | **György Kurtág** *Ligatura* ("The Answered Unanswered Question") | **Jorge Sánchez-Chiong** *Pulsations-Kreis* | **Pauline Oliveros** *Horse Sings from Cloud*

Ludwig van Beethoven Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61

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