



Media Release

TEODOR | 1 to 4 April 2020

Teodor Currentzis Is at the Center of the First Edition of Lucerne Festival's New Concert Weekends

Lucerne, 28 October 2019. Starting in 2020, Lucerne Festival is introducing a new event format by presenting two special concert weekends, one each in the spring and fall, respectively. The first edition, which will take place from 1 to 4 April in the KKL Luzern as well as in the Jesuitenkirche, is meant as an homage to the Greek conductor Teodor Currentzis. Through his radically novel interpretations and concepts, this artist is currently a force for powerful innovation in the field of classical music. His performances of the Verdi Requiem and of the Mozart-Da Ponte cycle of operas earlier this year were enthusiastically received by audiences in Lucerne. Currentzis will present his ensembles, the musicAeterna orchestra and chorus; members of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will also participate.

“Teodor Currentzis is an artist who breaks the rules of the classical music tradition, entrancing the audience with his passionate interpretations and innovative concepts. We are delighted to have succeeded in engaging him for this first edition of the new weekends,” explains Michael Haefliger, Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival. “Works that are familiar to us, such as Beethoven’s Ninth, will be illuminated afresh, while compositions drawn from various musical eras will be juxtaposed and performed onstage in a manner different from that which we usually encounter — and at the very highest artistic level.”

Three concerts will be offered during the course of this special spring weekend. These will also be supplemented by an in-depth program of related activities: a public rehearsal, a panel discussion, and a film portrait of the artist. The spring weekend will start off early, on Wednesday evening, 1 April, in the Jesuitenkirche. This Opening Concert, which is titled “Lux aeterna: A Thousand Years of Choral Music,” has been designed as a program of sacred choral music. Currentzis and his musicAeterna choir will present works spanning a millennium, from Byzantine chants and music by Hildegard of Bingen to works by György Ligeti and Alexey Retinsky. The choral opera *Tristia* by Philippe Hersant will be performed on Thursday evening. Currentzis himself commissioned and premiered it in 2016. *Tristia*, which can be translated as “lamentations,” sets to music 33 poems written in Russian and French prison camps. For this project, soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will join with Currentzis’s musicAeterna orchestra. On Saturday afternoon at 15.00, the film portrait “Die Sprache unserer Träume” (“The Language of Our Dreams”) — a documentary on Currentzis made for the SWR by Andreas Ammer (in German) — will be shown in the KKL Luzern auditorium. A panel discussion titled “Our Time Is Now” will then follow at 16.30. Michael Haefliger will be joined by NZZ editor Christian Wildhagen and other guests to discuss the Currentzis phenomenon and the transformations in musical life that have now become a topic of international interest.

In addition to Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, which Currentzis and musicAeterna will perform on Saturday evening in the KKL Luzern to conclude this extended weekend, an open rehearsal will also be held on Friday evening, through which the audience can have a first-hand experience of the conductor as he works with the musicians.



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

The online advance ticket sales for the 2020 Spring Weekend will start on 13 November at 12.00 noon (Lucerne time). The program for the Fall Weekend (22 to 25 November 2020) will be announced at the end of February 2020.

Wednesday, 1 April | 19.30 | Jesuitenkirche

musicAeterna (Vitaly Polonsky chorus master) | **Teodor Currentzis** conductor

“Lux aeterna: A Thousand Years of Choral Music”

Hildegard of Bingen *O vis aeternitatis* | **György Ligeti** *Lux aeterna* | **Alexey Retinsky** *Salve Regina* | **Byzantine Anthems** | additional works

Thursday, 2 April | 19.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

musicAeterna (Vitaly Polonsky chorus master) | **Members of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra** |

Teodor Currentzis conductor | **Mikhail Meylach** narrator

Philippe Hersant *Tristia*. choral opera for mixed chorus and instrumental ensemble

Friday, 3 April | 18.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

musicAeterna | **Teodor Currentzis** conductor

“Meet Teodor”. open rehearsal: Beethovens Ninth Symphony

Saturday, 4 April | 15.00 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium

“Die Sprache unserer Träume” Der Dirigent Teodor Currentzis (“The Language of Our Dreams: The Conductor Teodor Currentzis”) | documentary film by Andreas Ammer (SWR 2018) (in German)

Saturday, 4 April | 16.30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium

“Our Time Is Now.” Teodor Currentzis: A New Era in Musical Life? | panel discussion with Michael Haefliger, Christian Wildhagen, and other guests. Moderator: Susanne Stähr (in German)

Saturday, 4 April | 18.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

musicAeterna (Vitaly Polonsky chorus master) | **Teodor Currentzis** conductor | **soloists**

Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125

Additional information on purchasing tickets at www.lucernefestival.ch

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