

Media Release

First Look at the 2019 Summer Festival | 16 August to 15 September

“Power” is the Festival Theme; Mozart-Da Ponte Cycle: *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Le nozze di Figaro* with Teodor Currentzis

Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra to open the Festival with Denis Matsuev in a program of works by Rachmaninoff; “artiste étoile” Leonidas Kavakos will play Stravinsky’s Violin Concerto with the Orchestra

The Lucerne Festival Alumni musicians to work with Riccardo Chailly for the first time as well as with composer-in-residence Thomas Kessler and Sir George Benjamin

Igor Levit launches the Beethoven Cycle with two solo recitals

Lucerne, 29 October 2018. The Festival will address the socio-political theme of “Power” from a variety of musical perspectives. The Mozart-Da Ponte Cycle will be a central focus. It will feature the three operas *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte*, which revolve around three aspects of power: political, erotic, and psychological. Teodor Currentzis will conduct the music-Aeterna Orchestra and Chorus of Perm Opera in the cycle, along with such soloists as Dimitris Tiliakos as Don Giovanni, Kate Royal as Contessa, Nicole Chevalier as Fiordiligi, Florian Boesch as Don Alfonso, and Paula Murrihy in two roles. Thomas Kessler, our composer-in-residence, is a Swiss composer and pioneer of electronic music whose work is pertinent to the summer theme. It reflects on musical power relations, as in the orchestral piece *Utopia III*, where the musicians themselves can control live electronic sound modulations of their playing. Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s three “fate” symphonies will be performed, respectively, by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra led by Riccardo Chailly, the Berlin Philharmonic under Kirill Petrenko, and the Mariinsky Orchestra conducted by Valery Gergiev, who will also conduct Shostakovich’s Tenth Symphony, a work in which the composer comes to terms with his adversary, Joseph Stalin. Further details and projects related to the theme of “Power” as well as the programming for the Special Event Day on 1 September will be announced by the end of February 2019.

For the opening of the 2019 Summer Festival, Music Director Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will focus on the Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff, who was driven into exile by Soviet power. Denis Matsuev will perform as the soloist in Rachmaninoff’s Third Piano Concerto. This program will also feature the orchestral version of *Vocalise*, Op. 34, no. 14, and the Third Symphony, which the composer completed in 1936 at Villa Senar, his home in Hertenstein near Lucerne. The orchestra’s second program will combine Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony and his *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* with Stravinsky’s Violin Concerto, with Leonidas Kavakos as the soloist. Another program will feature Mahler’s Sixth Symphony.

Leonidas Kavakos will take on the position of “artiste étoile” in Lucerne this summer. For his Lucerne residency, he has chosen works particularly close to his heart by Chausson, Ravel, Sibelius, Stravinsky, and Korngold, as well as by Mozart, Prokofiev, Bartók, and Strauss for a solo recital.



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The musicians of the Lucerne Festival Alumni will collaborate for the first time with Riccardo Chailly, Music Director of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. Their joint program will include works by Mosolov, Schoenberg, Maderna, and Wolfgang Rihm, the Academy's Artistic Director. New works by the Roche Young Commissions prizewinners Marianna Liik and Josep Planells Schiaffino, to be conducted by Ruth Reinhardt and David Fulmer, will also be premiered as part of the Lucerne Festival Academy. Other highlights will include works by composer-in-residence Thomas Kessler, including *said the shotgun to the head*, featuring texts by the slam poet Saul Williams from Los Angeles, and the collaboration with composer and conductor Sir George Benjamin.

During the summer, the pianist Igor Levit will launch his cycle of all 32 piano sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven, which will extend over several festivals and be completed by the end of the Beethoven anniversary year in 2020. The first two recitals in the summer of 2019 will include the Sonatas in G major, Op. 79, A-flat major, Op. 26, and F minor, Op. 2, no. 1, as well as the *Waldstein Sonata*. The second recital will include the Piano Sonatas in F-sharp major, Op. 78, E-flat major, Op. 7, G major, Op. 14, no. 2, and E-flat major, Op. 81a (*Les Adieux*).

The London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle will join Barbara Hannigan for the *räsönanz* Donor Concert, a cooperation of the Festival with the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation and Bavarian Radio's *musica viva* initiative. They will perform *let me tell you*, a work for soprano and orchestra by the Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen, as well as Messiaen's *Éclairs sur l'Au-Delà*. In a second concert, the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle will combine works by Haydn, Britten, and Rachmaninoff. Among the Modern series offerings will be concerts with the JACK Quartet, Heinz Holliger (marking his 80th birthday), and students of the Lucerne School of Music, with Yuko Kakuta and Yukiko Sugawara as well as world premieres by Mark Andre and Thomas Kessler. A music theater work with the ensemble ascolta will be also performed.

A Parade of great international symphony orchestras, star conductors, and soloists

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra returns to Lucerne with Daniel Barenboim and Anne-Sophie Mutter. The Chamber Orchestra of Europe will be led by Bernard Haitink, who will also conduct one of the two concerts with the Vienna Philharmonic; the second will be under the baton of Andrés Orozco-Estrada. The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam returns to Lucerne with two programs, as does the Berlin Philharmonic with its new Chief Conductor Kirill Petrenko. Jakub Hrůša will conduct the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, and Andris Nelsons will make his first appearance at the Festival with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Valery Gergiev will be on the podium with the Mariinsky Orchestra, Long Yu with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and Zubin Mehta with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. The Orchestre National de France returns to Lucerne after a hiatus of 13 years, this time under the direction of Emmanuel Krivine. In addition to those already mentioned, the Festival's soloists will include the singers Anna Lucia Richter, Christine Goerke, and Stuart Skelton; the violinists Frank Peter Zimmermann, Vilde Frang, and Patricia Kopatchinskaja; the violist Tabea Zimmermann; and the pianists Murray Perahia, Maurizio Pollini, Sir Andrés Schiff, Yuja Wang, and Evgeny Kissin.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra Camp will be continued in cooperation with Superar Suisse. The saxophonist Jess Gillam, the pianist Daniel Lehardt, the cellist Pablo Ferrández, and the violinist

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Bomsori Kim, as well as the Trio Eclipse and the Esmé Quartet, will make their debuts at the Festival. The winner of the Prix Credit Suisse Jeunes Solistes will be selected in December 2018 and will also make their debut at the Summer Festival.

Further information on ticket sales and summer subscriptions can be found at www.lucernefestival.ch

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