



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Media Release

Rebecca Saunders is named recipient of the tenth composition to be commissioned in the Roche Commissions series

The ninth work commissioned in the series, *Reading Malevich* by Peter Eötvös, will receive its world premiere on 1 September by the Lucerne Festival Academy and Matthias Pintscher

Lucerne, 31 August 2018. The most-recent work to be presented by the Roche Commissions will be premiered on 1 September as part of the Summer Festival: Matthias Pintscher will conduct *Reading Malevich* by Peter Eötvös, which he prepared with the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy weeks before. Beginning in 2003, the Roche Commissions series has commissioned a work by a world-renowned composer every two years. The next commission, which will be presented in 2020, has been awarded to the British composer Rebecca Saunders, one of the most renowned composers of her generation. The choice of Saunders was made by Roche at the suggestion of Lucerne Festival's artistic leadership. The world premiere of her work will take place during the 2020 Summer Festival.

"In *Reading Malevich*, Peter Eötvös 'translates' the painting *Suprematism* by the Russian painter Kasimir Malevich into music. This will be a highlight of the Summer Festival," observes Michael Haefliger, Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival. "Rebecca Saunders is an excellent choice for the upcoming commission. One of the most significant composers in the field, she will extend the illustrious series of names who have already composed for the Roche Commissions." Since 2003, in addition to the new composition by Peter Eötvös, the series has resulted in the creation of works by Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Chen Yi, Hanspeter Kyburz, George Benjamin, Toshio Hosokawa, Matthias Pintscher, Unsuk Chin, and Olga Neuwirth.

About Rebecca Saunders

Born in London in 1967, Saunders, is one of the leading international composers. She studied with Nigel Osborne in Edinburgh and Wolfgang Rihm in Karlsruhe. Her music is known for highly delicate musical gestures and sonorities, for exploring unprecedented timbres, and for presenting the spatial aspects of musical processes. The composer, who lives in Berlin, finds inspiration from such writers such as Samuel Beckett, James Joyce, Italo Calvino, and David Foster Wallace. She has worked with the most renowned ensembles in the field of new music, such as the Ensemble Modern, the Arditti Quartet, the Ensemble Resonanz, and the WDR, SWR, and BBC Symphony Orchestras. Saunders has garnered many international prizes, among which may be named the Mauricio Kagel Music Prize and the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize. She teaches at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Hanover and is a member of the Berlin Academy of Arts and the Saxon Academy of Arts in Dresden.

About Peter Eötvös

The Hungarian Peter Eötvös has for many years been successful as a composer, conductor, and teacher. Born in Transylvania in 1944, he is considered one of the most influential figures in contemporary music. He is known both as an internationally successful conductor and as a composer of popular operas, orchestral works, and concertos that he has written for leading artists around the world. His works were showcased at Lucerne Festival in 2007, when he was composer-in-residence. He dedicates much of his time to teaching: he has taught in Cologne and Karlsruhe and gives international master classes. In Lucerne, he worked with the Lucerne Festival Academy in the summer 2011 as a conductor and composer. He founded the International Eötvös Institute in Budapest in 1991 and the Eötvös Contemporary Music Foundation for young composers and conductors in 2004.

Contacts for Press and Public Relations

Nina Steinhart, Head of PR | n.steinhart@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 43/-59