

## Media Release

### **Scholarship Winners to Attend the Lucerne Festival Academy: Martina Kalt, Marta Sanchez Paz, and Francisco Olmedo Molina Receive the 2019 Fritz Gerber Award**

*Lucerne, 1 July 2019.* The recipients of this year's Fritz Gerber Award are the violist Martina Kalt, the oboist Marta Sanchez Paz, and the trombonist Francisco Olmedo Molina. The award supports young, highly talented musicians in the field of contemporary classical music. Each of the three young musicians will receive a cash award of CHF 10,000 as well as a scholarship that covers the costs of attending the 2019 Lucerne Festival Academy (an additional CHF 10,000 in value).

Born in Switzerland in 1991, **Martina Kalt** studies viola with Geneviève Strosser and violin with Adelina Oprean at the Basel Academy of Music. She completed her bachelor's degree at the Lübeck Academy of Music with Prof. Barbara Westphal in 2015. Since 2009 she has acquired a good deal of orchestral experience, including appearances with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, and the Hamburg Camerata. Marina Kalt has attended master classes with Hartmut Rohde at the University of the Arts Berlin and with Prof. Heidi Castleman at the Juilliard School New York. The Spanish oboist **Marta Sanchez Paz**, who was born in 1995, is currently studying at the Haute École de Musique de Lausanne. She received her bachelor's degree in 2017 from the Academy of Music in Basel with Emanuel Abbühl. In the 2019-20 season, she will complete an internship with the Basel Symphony Orchestra. Credits to date include engagements in projects with the Sinfonietta de Lausanne, the Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia, and the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.

**Francisco Olmedo Molina**, who was born in Spain in 1990, completed his studies at the Zurich University of the Arts with David Bruchez and at the Basel Academy of Music with Mike Svoboda. He has devoted himself primarily to contemporary repertoire for years and has been engaged by the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, the Musikkollegium Winterthur, and the Philharmonia Zurich. He also teaches trombone at "Superar Suisse."

This was the fifth year that the Lucerne Festival Academy has presented the Fritz Gerber Award. Musicians were invited to apply directly for the open competition, with recommendations from music academies and well-known artists also being accepted. The jury this year consisted once again of Michael Haefliger, Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival, the composer and conductor Heinz Holliger, and members of the Academy's teaching faculty. Young artists up to the age of 28 who are Swiss citizens or who have been living in Switzerland for at least five years are eligible to apply for the award.

The **Fritz Gerber Foundation for Gifted Young People** has been active since 1999. It promotes talented young people in the fields of education (including technical colleges), skilled crafts and trades, culture, and athletics. This support is provided in the form of financial contributions to education, including training and advanced studies. Over the past 20 years, the Foundation has supported 2,250 talented young people with a total of over 26 million Swiss francs.

The **Lucerne Festival Academy** was founded in 2003 jointly by Pierre Boulez and Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger. Wolfgang Rihm has served as Artistic Director of the Academy since the summer of 2016. Highly talented young musicians convene here every summer from all over the world to study contemporary scores and modern classics. Selected international specialists teach as lecturers.

In addition to the Artistic Director Wolfgang Rihm, the composer and conductor Sir George Benjamin is serving as an important artistic leader of the Academy this summer. Under the direction of Sir George Benjamin, an ensemble of the Academy will perform his work *At First Light* as well as Wolfgang Rihm's *Jagden und Formen* on 25 August. An important focus of the Lucerne Festival Academy and the Alumni in 2019 will be the works of this year's composer-in-residence, Thomas Kessler. His



# LUCERNE FESTIVAL

composition ...*said the shotgun to the head* for slammer, slam choir, and orchestra, among other works, will be prepared together with slam poetry star Saul Williams from Los Angeles and then performed on 24 August. The percussionist Robyn Schulkowsky will open the Special Event Day on 1 September with an ensemble from the Lucerne Festival Academy. And the principal trumpeter of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, Reinhold Friedrich, will perform with the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra on 1 September in a program including *Marsyas* by Wolfgang Rihm, *Palimpsests* by George Benjamin, *glut* by Dieter Ammann, and the world premieres of works by the two Roche Young Commissions winners, Marianna Liik and Josep Planells Schiaffino.

[www.lucernefestival.ch/de/lucerne-festival-academy/fritz-gerber-award](http://www.lucernefestival.ch/de/lucerne-festival-academy/fritz-gerber-award)

## **Contact for Press and Public Relations**

[presse@lucernefestival.ch](mailto:presse@lucernefestival.ch) | t +41 (0)41 226 44 -43 /-59

Additional information may be found at [www.lucernefestival.ch](http://www.lucernefestival.ch) or [www.fritz-gerber-stiftung.ch](http://www.fritz-gerber-stiftung.ch)