



Media Release

A total of 16,800 concertgoers attend the 2018 Piano Festival, which ends on Sunday evening with a recital by Piotr Anderszewski

Lucerne, 24 November 2018. For the 20th-anniversary edition of the Piano Festival, which opened on 17 November and comes to its conclusion tomorrow, on Sunday, 25 November, Lucerne Festival reports the following final results. About 11,300 concertgoers attended a total of 14 concerts in the KKL Luzern Concert Hall and in the Lukaskirche. The Festival presented seven major concerts in the KKL, which were very well attended, with a total occupancy of 84%. With the three “Day of the Keyboard” concerts, the three Debut series concerts, and the modern music recital in the Lukaskirche included, the occupancy for all 14 concerts was 74%. In addition, approximately 5,500 people attended the free concerts given as part of Piano Off-Stage.

The Piano Festival presented ten solo recitals, including one organ recital, a symphony concert featuring the piano, and three Debut concerts, as well as two piano lectures and, for the first time, two master class series in cooperation with the Hochschule Luzern – Musik. The opening concert for Piano Off-Stage, which featured eight international jazz pianists, was once again a popular event. It attracted 1,200 music lovers to Lucerne Hall, which was filled to capacity; all of the free events offered as part of Piano Off-Stage, including the opening concert and a total of 41 performances given in bars around Lucerne, drew about 5,500 people.

This Saturday evening, 24 November, Andreas Haefliger will appear as the soloist with the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra conducted by Donald Runnicles. He will perform Mozart’s C minor Piano Concerto, K. 491, and the Piano Concerto in D major for the Left Hand by Maurice Ravel; also on the program are Richard Strauss’s tone poem *Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks* and the concert overture *In the South (Alassio)* by Edward Elgar. On Sunday evening, the pianist Piotr Anderszewski will conclude the Festival with a recital. He will play selections from Book 2 of *The Well-Tempered Clavier* by Johann Sebastian Bach and Beethoven’s *Diabelli Variations*, Op. 120.

Igor Levit opened the Piano Festival on 17 November, which was followed by the “Day of the Keyboard” the next day. Titled “Cueing the Keys,” it featured the three young stars Sergei Redkin, Varvara, and Bertrand Chamayou, who explored dance-related themes. Additional recitals were given by Grigory Sokolov and the organist Cameron Carpenter, while Sir Andrés Schiff appeared in two solo programs. The three Debut series concerts held in the Lukaskirche introduced the Chinese Haochen Zhang, who had performed as a soloist with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in Shanghai in October, as well as Schaghajegh Nosrati and Federico Colli. The journalist and author Martin Meyer gave two lectures about piano music. Guest auditors have been welcome to attend the two series of master classes in piano offered in cooperation with the Hochschule Luzern – Musik. Andreas Haefliger taught the first course, from 17 to 21 November, and Nicolas Hodges will begin the second one tomorrow, Sunday, 25 November. Hodges’s recital this Saturday morning meanwhile presents the premieres of works by the finalists of the composition competition sponsored by the Christoph Delz Foundation. Following the concert, the prizewinner among these finalists, who include the Japanese Eiko Tsukamoto, the Italian Francesco Ciurlo, and the Finn Sebastian Hilli, will be named.

The free events offered during the jazz series Piano Off-Stage, which was held from 20 to 25 November, once again proved to be highly popular this year, which marked the 15th edition of the series since it was founded. Eight jazz pianists from around the world played for five evenings in Lucerne's bars. They included Ehud Asherie, Jon Davis, Jörg Hegemann, Chris Hopkins, Dave Ruosch, Julia Siedl, Thilo Wagner, and Robi Weber and drew a full house for the animated Off-Stage Opening Concert.

Concert Sponsor – Julius Baer

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