

Ticketing Information

Online ticket sales begin on 13 November 2019, 12.00 noon (Swiss time)

Mail and fax sales begin on 15 November 2019

Telephone sales begin on 15 November 2019
Mon – Fri from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm and from 1.30 to 5 pm
(Saturdays and Sundays as well when the Festival is underway)

Tickets & Information

LUCERNE FESTIVAL
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ticketbox@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch

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THUS SPAKE TEODOR ...

“Through my work, I want to give people genuine joy.”

“Making music comes with great responsibility. You have to ensure that everything you do has a concept and is well rehearsed. And then you also have to make sure to give your best.”

“Spirituality has nothing to do with ‘self-help’ but with transcendence. And that requires an effort to become seriously engaged with something.”

“My musicians and I seem a bit like nudists in a music system that is very well dressed. I am honest about what I want. In a world that isn’t, such honesty looks eccentric. It is the others who are eccentric. I am normal.”

“When it comes to me, people like to write about what strange trousers I wear and what shoes I have on when I go onstage. My hair is also a popular topic. I don’t want to judge that, but in reality I go onstage wearing the same trousers, the same shoes, and the same hairstyle that I wear outside the theater. I go onstage just as I am.”

“Every day I try to tear down all the towers that I have built up – even the ones around myself. To destroy the foundations of one’s own mythology is very important.”

“I always work until I have the desired result. That can be ten hours, but it can also be ten minutes.”

“When I founded musicAeterna, I not only chose the best of the best. I brought together like-minded people. The kind who don’t leave rehearsal the moment the bell rings and head out to take care of their own concerns. I need people who think about music day and night.”

“I am a great Romantic. But not in the sense of categories like ‘landscapes,’ ‘seasides,’ ‘my darling.’ My Romanticism is sublime: wild cats jumping on a grand piano, wild plants that have aromas like incense – like you find in Baudelaire.”

“A conductor must understand that he is no better a human than any member of the orchestra. That he’s not even a better musician.”

“I dream of a world without conductors and politicians.”



© Nadia Rosenberg

Friends of LUCERNE FESTIVAL

LUCERNE FESTIVAL would not be what it is without them. Since 1966, the Friends have generously supported the Festival program. Their donations by now amount to about 8% of the total budget and thus constitute a significant contribution to financing the Festival. Becoming a member is worth it, since being an active part of the circle of Friends allows you to experience the Festival as an insider and to belong to the “family.” Benefits include rehearsal visits, conversations with high-ranking artists, and exclusive events, and naturally you also get to meet like-minded people. Young adults up to the age of 39 have the option of joining the Young Friends of LUCERNE FESTIVAL, which organizes shared concert visits at reduced rates and offers a varied related program of events.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL would like to thank all its Friends for their many years of loyal support. Special thanks go to our patrons:

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TEODOR

1 – 4 April 2020

English

A WEEKEND WITH TEODOR CURRENTZIS AND FRIENDS

“Teodor Currentzis, an acrobat on the conductor’s podium, is able to shape the musical expression to extraordinary extremes, whether piano or forte, whether fast or slow. In that sense, he belongs to the (more or less) young wild figures in classical music. The tempi he elicits are not simply uniform but are instead richly nuanced and completely in accordance with the expressive moment.”

Peter Hagmann, music critic

The Mozart-Da Ponte cycle with which Teodor Currentzis brought the 2019 Summer Festival to a close proved to be unforgettable for many. From the first second to the last, these three evenings pulsed with energy and electrified the audience. Currentzis was incredibly daring in his radical interpretations as a conductor. His downright physical engagement with the performance nearly carried everyone away – the musicians onstage and the listeners in the hall alike. The first of the musical weekends that LUCERNE FESTIVAL is initiating in 2020 will therefore be focused on this extraordinary conductor.

The Greek maestro will perform three concerts with his ensemble musicAeterna and soloists of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA. All three performances will be linked by a social and ethical mission that goes beyond pure musical experience. With Philippe Hersant’s moving choral opera *Tristia*, which involves the fate of political prisoners, he makes a plea for freedom. Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony serves as the vehicle to dream of a world of love and friendship. And with sacred choral works spanning 1,000 years to start things off, Currentzis will open a vista into eternity. There will also be an in-depth program of related events including a public rehearsal, a film portrait, and a panel discussion.

Wed 1. 4. LUX AETERNA

19:30
KKL Luzern, Jesuitenkirche
CHF 120/80
Event no. 20106

musicAeterna
(Vitaly Polonsky
chorus master)
Teodor Currentzis
conductor

Hildegard of Bingen
O vis aeternitatis

György Ligeti
Lux aeterna

Alexey Retinsky
Salve Regina

Byzantine Anthems

The rest of the program will be announced at a later date.

🕒 ends at c. 21:00 |
This concert has
no intermission

From the very beginning, one of the hallmarks of Teodor Currentzis and musicAeterna was that rather than be limited to the core Classical and Romantic repertoire, they wanted to explore music history in depth, in both temporal directions: back to the Middle Ages on the one hand and into the present on the other. It is therefore not by chance that the opening concert of the “Teodor” Weekend covers music spanning nearly a thousand years, juxtaposing them in ways that offer rich and insightful new perspectives. In this program titled *Lux aeterna*, the Abbess Hildegard of Bingen shares space with the avant-garde composer György Ligeti and ancient Byzantine chant from Currentzis’s native Greece meets up with the young Ukrainian Alexey Retinsky. What was assumed to be old will suddenly sounds strikingly modern, while the seemingly new will turn out to harbor unexpected references to tradition. A shared element: at the center is humanity with its desire to overcome the condition of finitude. What better way could there be to reveal intimations of eternity than music? Teodor Currentzis and his fabulous choir invite you on a spiritual journey.

Purchase the Teodor Currentzis Package and receive a 10% discount on your tickets.

Thu 2. 4. TRISTIA

19:30
KKL Luzern, Concert Hall
CHF 200/170/130/90/60/30
Event no. 20101

musicAeterna
(Vitaly Polonsky
chorus master)
**Soloists of the LUCERNE
FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA**
Teodor Currentzis
conductor
Mikhail Meylach speaker

Philippe Hersant
Tristia
Choral opera for mixed
chorus and instrumental
ensemble
ca. 80’

🕒 This performance has
no intermission

18:30
Introduction to the
concert by
Susanne Stähr
KKL Luzern, Auditorium

Purchase the Teodor Currentzis Package and receive a 10% discount on your tickets.



© Alexandra Nuravjeva

Fri 3. 4. MEET TEODOR

18:30
KKL Luzern, Concert Hall
CHF 100
Event no. 20102

If you would like to become better acquainted with Teodor Currentzis and see how he works with musicAeterna, you will not want to miss this workshop. In the course of a public rehearsal, he will refine his interpretation of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. Afterward, Currentzis will offer insights into his understanding of Beethoven and explain how he arrives at his interpretation of this composer.

Sat 4. 4. FILM PORTRAIT

15:00
KKL Luzern, Auditorium
Free admission

“The Language of Our Dreams”
The Conductor Teodor Currentzis (in German)
Documentary by Andreas Ammer | SWR 2018 | 60’

For eight months, the director Andreas Ammer followed the conductor Teodor Currentzis, observed him at work with musicAeterna and the SWR Symphony Orchestra, and took part in numerous conversations with him. The result is a multi-faceted portrait of this impressive musician who also sees his profession as a spiritual mission.

Sat 4. 4. PANEL DISCUSSION

16:30
KKL Luzern, Auditorium
Free admission

“Our Time Is Now.” **Teodor Currentzis:**
A New Era for Musical Life? (in German)

Teodor Currentzis began his career as a rebel in the classical music scene, but he has long since caused changes in the business: through his unorthodox appearance, his steadfast principles, his uncompromising artistic standards. The music critic Christian Wildhagen, Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger, and two musicians will speak with Susanne Stähr about what the Currentzis phenomenon means for today’s musical life.

Sat 4. 4. BEETHOVEN’S NINTH

18:30
KKL Luzern, Concert Hall
CHF 290/240/190/130/70/40
Event no. 20105

musicAeterna
(Vitaly Polonsky
Chorus master)
Teodor Currentzis
conductor
soloists TBA

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 9
in D minor, Op. 125
ca. 70’

🕒 This concert has
no intermission

For Teodor Currentzis, “Beethoven is Beethoven”: He sees the allegedly classical master as a revolutionary who cannot be confined to any single era but who transcends his time, remaining relevant up to the present. The Greek conductor believes that this is one of the reasons why Beethoven’s music can be performed over and over and is amenable to very different interpretations – like an oracle that never reveals its secret. No wonder that Currentzis constantly grapples with this monolith of music history and is only too glad to include him on his programs. So, too, in the 2020 Beethoven Year. In Lucerne, with the choir and orchestra of his ensemble musicAeterna, Currentzis will lead a performance of the most powerful of all nine Beethoven symphonies, proclaiming the message that all humanity belongs together, even – and especially – in times of social polarization: “This kiss for the whole world!” And Currentzis, a gifted, ecstatic conductor, can be counted on to enhance the finale’s famous melody of joy and Beethoven’s message to life with moving, all-embracing expression.

Purchase the Teodor Currentzis Package and receive a 10% discount on your tickets.