



## Media Release

### **91% Capacity at Lucerne Festival in Summer – Exploring the theme of “Identity,” the Festival achieves favorable final numbers**

*Lucerne, 8 September 2017.* This year a total of 78,600 concertgoers visited Lucerne Festival in Summer from 11 August to 10 September, resulting in very favorable final numbers for the Festival, which concludes this coming weekend: the 82 events to which tickets were sold had an average capacity of 91%\*; 43 admission-free events were additionally offered. “We are very pleased that we were able to reach and inspire audiences through our diverse programming on the theme of ‘Identity’ and through a wide variety of concert formats,” remarks Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger.

The Summer Festival, which this year focused on the theme of “Identity,” concludes this coming Sunday evening with a symphony concert by the Vienna Philharmonic under the direction of Daniel Harding. Earlier, at 11.00, the world premiere of NOMOZART will be given, which is the latest Young Performance production. On Saturday evening, Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the Vienna Philharmonic, with the pianist Emanuel Ax as the soloist, followed by Moritz Eggert’s Late Night Show in the Interval starting at 21.15. And “artiste étoile” Patricia Kopatchinskaja will perform one more time in the Young children’s concert *Das kleine Irgendwas*. Friday evening brings the sold-out premiere of a coproduction with the Luzerner Theater of György Ligeti’s *Le Grand Macabre*; on the same evening, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Charles Dutoit featuring the soloist Martha Argerich will perform in the likewise sold-out KKL Luzern Concert Hall.

### **Numbers for the Summer Festival**

A total of 64,600 people attended the 82 events to which tickets were sold. Of these, 20 events were sold out, and the 30 symphony concerts had an average capacity rate of 94%. The 43 free-admission events attracted 14,000 visitors: on the Special Event Day, one of the highlights of this year’s Festival, a total of 4,800 people attended the events that were presented in and around the KKL Luzern. This year around 4,300 music fans came to the 12 evenings of the 40min series, while the 14 encore events offered in the “Interval” attracted a total of around 1,100 people to the KKL Luzern — both of these series are free. Despite cool and wet weather, a total of approximately 200 people attended the Public Viewing of the Opening Concert shown in Inseli Park. The “In the Streets” Festival was extraordinarily well-attended this summer, drawing around 5,200 people.

### **An Illustrious Parade: Orchestras, Stars, “Artistes étoiles,” and Composer-in-residence**

A parade of the most highly renowned international symphony orchestras once again appeared night after night onstage in the KKL Lucerne this summer, among them the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Mariinsky Orchestra, and the Orchestre de l’Opéra national de Paris. Daniel Barenboim, Riccardo Chailly, Charles Dutoit, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Daniele Gatti, Valery Gergiev, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Bernard Haitink, Manfred Honeck, Philippe Jordan, and Sir Simon Rattle were among the stars who appeared on the podium, and the concert stage was host to such eminent soloists as Martha Argerich, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Leonidas Kavakos, and Daniil Trifonov. Two rapidly rising stars of the young generation were in the spotlight as “artistes étoiles”: the violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja and the cellist Jay Campbell, who showed their experimental side in free-admission formats along with performing as soloists in the concert hall.

\*Projected figure as of 08.09.2017

As composer-in-residence, Michel van der Aa was a focus, presenting two multimedia operas among other works. Overall, Lucerne Festival presented a total of eight world premieres this summer.

### **The Theme of "Identity"**

How are humans shaped by their origin, homeland, faith, culture, and religion? The Festival's programming illuminated these issues from a wide variety of perspectives. The Special Event Day on 27 August explored the theme with a new version of Mozart's *Idomeneo* that included people with a refugee and immigration background; Jordi Savall and his ensemble undertook to retrace the slave routes from the 15th to the 19th centuries; and seven short concerts in the Kunstmuseum looked to the example of Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály to show how archaic folk music influenced Modernism – with such performers as the "artistes étoiles" Patricia Kopatchinskaja and Jay Campbell, as well as students of the Lucerne Festival Academy. Béla Bartók's Second Violin Concerto was also heard in a symphony concert featuring Patricia Kopatchinskaja as the soloist with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra under François-Xavier Roth, as was Bartók's highly virtuosic ballet score *The Wooden Prince*, played by the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy.

An important contribution to this exploration of the theme of "Identity" included performances of the three extant Monteverdi operas, *L'Orfeo*, *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, and *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, under the direction of Sir John Eliot Gardiner. The search for authenticity and naturalness shapes the work of Gustav Mahler, whose *Rückert* and *Wunderhorn* lieder were performed in two concerts with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Bernard Haitink, featuring Christian Gerhaher and Anna Lucia Richter as the soloists. Composers whose identities were influenced by their struggles against the political system were also represented in the programming: there were three symphonies by Dmitri Shostakovich and the five piano concertos of Sergei Prokofiev, which were performed on a single evening by two young Russian pianists and Daniil Trifonov, together with the Mariinsky Orchestra under Valery Gergiev.

The "Identities" series also presented programs involving contemporary compositions influenced by Swiss folk music. (Holliger's *Alb-Chehr* and a new work by Helena Winkelman); *Dies irae*, a concert staged by and featuring Patricia Kopatchinskaja; and the "symphony.land" project, in which refugees engaged with their responses to Beethoven's Fourth Symphony.

### **New Era for the Lucerne Festival Orchestra**

This summer Riccardo Chailly programmed music by Richard Strauss, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, and Stravinsky, thus opening new areas of repertoire for the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. The Festival's Opening Concert offered an all-Richard Strauss program consisting of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, *Death and Transfiguration*, and *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*. This concert was broadcast live for attendees in Lucerne's Inseli Park, and the second half was streamed on Facebook Live. Their second concert program combined Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* score with Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony*. They also performed a third program consisting of Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*, *Le Faune et la Bergère* (sung by Sophie Koch), *Scherzo fantastique*, *Feu d'artifice*, and the Swiss premiere of *Chant funèbre*, a piece long thought to have been lost. The Strauss program on opening night as well as the Stravinsky program were recorded for later CD release on Decca.



## Heinz Holliger and Matthias Pintscher Shaped the 2017 Lucerne Festival Academy

Taking part in this year's Lucerne Festival Academy were 135 orchestral musicians from 30 nations, as well as 10 young composers and 4 emerging conductors. This summer the Artistic Director Wolfgang Rihm taught his Composer Seminar together with Michel van der Aa and Dieter Ammann, which for the first time was open to the general public for the first week. Matthias Pintscher, Principal Conductor of the Academy, rehearsed and conducted the programs for three concert evenings, including the Swiss premiere of *Spiegel I-VII*, which was rehearsed and presented in the presence of its composer, Friedrich Cerha. (This concert was repeated on 4 September in the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg.) The new works in the *Roche Young Commissions* by Lisa Streich and Matthew Kaner were performed under the direction of the young conductors Gregor Mayrhofer and Jeffrey Means. This summer's two "artistes étoiles," Patricia Kopatchinskaja and Jay Campbell, were heard as soloists in numerous Academy projects. For example, Patricia Kopatchinskaja was the soloist in Heinz Holliger, while Jay Campbell played the solo part in the world premiere of *Das Ding singt* by Luca Francesconi, which was also heard on 3 September in the Cologne Philharmonie as part of their concert tour. The participants in this year's Academy performed in a total of 22 concerts, including three 40min concerts, three symphony concerts, two concerts at the open-air Buvette, three Encores in the Interval, a Late Night concert, seven Museum concerts, the Special Event Day opening, and two concerts as part of its tour. Alumni performed in a total of eight concerts.

The 17 concerts in the **Young** series were very well attended, with a total capacity of 83%, and they presented a total of five productions. Five events were sold out, including the children's concert *Das kleine Irgendwas* by and featuring Patricia Kopatchinskaja. NOMOZART, this year's new Young Performance production with eight alumni, will be given its world premiere this coming Sunday at 11.00 and 15.00. The production will then go on a tour across Switzerland in the spring of 2018. Around 2,700 school students from 130 school classes additionally came to the 12 school performances and 4 workshops.

For the fifth time in a row, the "**Soundzz.z.zzz...z**" competition in cooperation with the Kunstmuseum Luzern took place. The project *Delokation Berg – Koechlin – Vasks* by Strotter Inst. combined classical music and turntables to produce unprecedented sounds.

For the first time ever, the Festival's Facebook page carried live streams of works from four symphony concerts, including the Opening Concert with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra under Riccardo Chailly and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Manfred Honeck. The streaming of the second half of the Opening Concert recorded just under 52,000 views and reached 170,000 people. Additionally, one of the Encore in the Interval series and a 40min concert could also be followed live. The premiere of NOMOZART this coming Sunday will likewise be streamed on Facebook Live.

Radio SRF2 Kultur recorded 18 concerts and broadcast live over the radio the Opening Concert with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly as well as Symphony Concert 17 with the Orchestre de l'Opéra national de Paris led by Philippe Jordan and with the pianist Bertrand Chamayou; a selection of the concerts will be broadcast internationally as well as by New York radio station WQXR. Symphony Concert 7 with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly was transmitted on the same evening on Swiss television and on arte; it will be released on DVD in 2018 by Accentus Music. The concert by the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle on 30 August was recorded for a later TV broadcast on arte, as was the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra's concert for a later time on the Chinese TV station CCTV.



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