



Media Release

Final Results from the Aid Campaign #SolidarityForMusic

275,616 Swiss francs raised for Swiss musicians coping with hardship – 1'710 people express their solidarity by submitting 374 videos of their personal renditions of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*

Lucerne, 14 September 2020. The #SolidarityForMusic aid campaign, which ended last Friday, has raised a total of 275,616 Swiss francs to benefit freelance musicians across all genres in Switzerland, from classical music to jazz, rock, and pop. The funds will be distributed directly by SONART (the Swiss Association of Musicians). Lucerne Festival, together with its Main Sponsors, took the initiative through this aid campaign to draw attention to the economic plight caused by the coronavirus pandemic and to offer help to musicians who have been affected by it. Anyone who wanted to participate, amateurs and professionals alike, whether as ensembles, choirs, orchestras, or individuals, was invited to make a video of themselves or of others performing Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* (from the last movement of his Ninth Symphony). A total of 1'710 people took part, creating 374 videos that were uploaded to the solidarityformusic.ch website. The end result tallied 763'299 musical notes that were performed as an expression of solidarity with freelance artists. The total sum of 275,616 Swiss francs that was collected in this campaign consists of donations from the project partners and substantial private donations as well as donations made directly on the campaign's website. SONART is currently working through 175 requests for support that have been submitted by artists affected by the crisis.

Participants in the campaign included prominent figures as well as music students, choirs, orchestras, teams of office workers, entire school classes, and many individual artists. The videos for the campaign came primarily from participants in Switzerland, but contributions were also uploaded from Beijing, Dresden, Dublin, Malta, New York, São Paulo, Sardinia, Sydney, Tromsø, and Vienna. The *Ode to Joy* was sung, whistled, and even yodeled, and the music was played not only using classical instruments but also with electric guitars, nose flutes, water glasses, bells, electric toothbrushes, musical boxes, synthesizers, and 3D printers.

In addition to the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and musicians representing each of the instrumental sections from the orchestra, others who participated included an ensemble from the Lucerne Festival Alumni; the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra; the Festival Strings Lucerne; the Bern Symphony Orchestra; the director of the Davos Festival; the Lucerne Kantorei; the music schools from Ennetbürgen, Entlebuch, Nidwalden, and Obwalden; the Opera Studio of the Vienna Staatsoper; the Orchestra Mozart; the ensemble Stargaze with the 21st Century Chorus from the Luzerner Theater; the Rothenburg Guggenmusik Borggeischter; students from the Reussbühl Cantonal School; the Biel Solothurn Symphony Orchestra; and many more.

Renowned musicians from the classical music industry joined in for the campaign, including Cecilia Bartoli, Sol Gabetta, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Igor Levit, Mauro Peter, and Peter Conradin Zumthor.



In addition, such well-known Swiss artists as Crimer, James Gruntz, Stefanie Heinzmann, Knackeboul, Francine Jordi, Pepe Lienhard, Nicolas Senn, Erika Stucky, and Sandra Studer supported this worthy cause.

Press photos can be downloaded from www.lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos

www.solidarityformusic.ch

www.lucernefestival.ch

www.sonart.swiss

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