



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Media Release

Lucerne Festival achieves a very positive final figure of 90% capacity

Lucerne, 9 September 2016. Sunday evening brings this year's Lucerne Festival in Summer to its conclusion. A total of 77,900 concertgoers from 49 countries came to the Summer Festival in Lucerne, which was dedicated to the theme of "PrimaDonna" and which took place over four weeks and five weekends, from 12 August to 11 September, presenting 88 ticketed artistic events and 24 free events. The 88 events to which tickets were sold had a capacity of 90%, drawing a tally of 64,900 concertgoers, and 25 of the events were sold out. A total of 13,000 people attended the 24 free events. The average seat capacity for the total of 29 symphony concerts was 94%. A very popular offering was the Special Event Day on 21 August, to which 4,800 tickets were sold, while the free-admission 40min series attracted 4,600 visitors to the KKL Luzern and the Public Viewing free broadcast of the Opening Concert drew 1,500 people to Inseli Park.

The Festival's Grand Conclusion This Weekend

The Festival draws to its close with a richly varied artistic concert weekend tomorrow and Sunday. This evening Simone Rubino, the winner of this year's Credit Suisse Young Artist Award, will perform as the soloist in the Vienna Philharmonic's second concert, with Tugan Sokhiev conducting. The new production of Luigi Nono's *Prometeo*, this year's collaboration with the Luzerner Theater, will also open tonight. On Saturday, at 11 am and 3 pm, the new Young Performance production "Divamania" receives its premiere; other offerings include the Spyros Piano Trio at 11 am, the Women of the Berlin Philharmonic at 4 pm at the MaiHof, and Daniel Barenboim conducting the Staatskapelle Berlin on Saturday evening in the KKL Luzern. The program for the closing concert on Sunday at 5 pm includes the monumental *Turangalila Symphony* by Olivier Messiaen, with the pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Cynthia Miller as the soloists and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela led by Gustavo Dudamel.

Festival Theme of "PrimaDonna"

With its theme of "PrimaDonna," Lucerne Festival gave the spotlight to the role of women in music. Of the 11 women conductors whom the Festival presented in its summer programming, no fewer than 5 performed as part of the major Special Event Day on 21 August: Konstantia Gourzi, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Anu Tali, Maria Schneider, and Elena Schwarz. The Special Event Day attracted the greatest interest: some 4,800 tickets were sold for the six concerts and the two Young events comprising the Special Event Day, and around 200 people attended the discussion panel during the afternoon. Olga Neuwirth, who was the composer-in-residence for the summer of 2016, and several of her works were performed in six concerts. Such notable female composers of the last few centuries as Ethel Smyth, Fanny Mendelssohn, and Clara Schumann were presented in the course of the Festival. All of the female artists received a focus as "artistes étoiles" during the summer, including Iveta Apkalna, Martha Argerich, Cecilia Bartoli, Isabelle Faust, Sol Gabetta, and Anne-Sophie Mutter, who celebrated the 40th anniversary of her Lucerne stage debut with a total of three concerts. The Debut series, also consisting solely of women, introduced Tianwa Yang, Asya Fateyeva, Harriet Krijgh, the Trio Rafale, Hagar Sharvit, and the Quatuor Zaïde. With her debut, Elim Chan became the first young conductor in the series. The theme of "PrimaDonna" was likewise at the center of such other projects as "Soundzz.z.zzz...z", a collaboration with the Kunstmuseum Luzern, and the NZZ panel discussion with Martin Meyer.



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Symphony Orchestra Highlights and Appearances by Riccardo Chailly

For the 29 symphony concerts by the world's most renowned orchestras the average capacity was 94%. A total of 11 of these concerts were sold out, including the two opening evenings with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra under the direction of the new Music Director Riccardo Chailly, the two concerts by the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra under Daniel Barenboim, the performance by the Mahler Chamber Orchestra under Barbara Hannigan, the two concerts by the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle, and the concert by the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy under the direction of Alan Gilbert, with Anne-Sophie Mutter as the soloist. Emmanuelle Haïm's appearance was the first time a woman conducted the Vienna Philharmonic in Lucerne, and Marin Alsop led the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra. Highly renowned male conductors likewise appeared on the podium, such as Bernard Haitink, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his debut in Lucerne. Daniele Gatti, Kirill Petrenko, Valery Gergiev, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Herbert Blomstedt, and Tugan Sokhiev were also among the lineup.

Start of the New Era at the Lucerne Festival Academy

Participating in this year's Lucerne Festival Academy were 129 orchestral musicians from 28 nations, aged between 17 and 32, 12 young composers, five emerging conductors, and 12 alumni. This was the first year in which the Academy was led by its new Artistic Director Wolfgang Rihm, who established a new Composer Seminar. Matthias Pintscher, the new Principal Conductor of the Lucerne Festival Academy, conducted the opening with the Ensemble intercontemporain and led the Academy orchestra in a program of works by György Ligeti, Mark Andre, and Igor Stravinsky. This concert was repeated on 6 September as the opening concert of the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie in the Laeiszhalle. Alan Gilbert led a master class in conducting, and Susanna Mälkki joined with the orchestra to give the world premiere of Olga Neuwirth's *Trurljade-Zone Zero (Roche Commissons)*. Academy participants could be heard in a total of 14 concerts, including four 40min concerts and three symphony concerts.

Attracting 4,600 concertgoers, this summer the **40min concerts** which took place in Lucerne Hall in the KKL Luzern proved to be very popular. An average of about 460 listeners attend each evening, and three were filled to the very last seat. Half of the 40min events presented contemporary music. "**Interval**" was launched in the foyer of the KKL Luzern, the new lounge was designed as a meeting place for audiences and musicians. Here music lovers met up both before and after the concerts.

The 20 concerts in the **Young** series were very well attended, with a total of 91% seat capacity. A total of five productions were presented, with 14 sold-out dates, including the children's pillow concerts for the production "Goldmädchen" ("Golden Girl") and 8 performances of "Die Aufziehprinzessin" ("The Wind-Up Princess"), this year's collaboration with puppet theater Petruschka. "Divamania", the new Young Performance production featuring six musicians and two dancers, will be premiered this coming Saturday at 11 am and 3 pm. In the spring of 2017 this production will tour Switzerland, with stops at Verscio, Zug, Chur, Geneva, Solothurn, and Zurich. About 2'350 young students from 120 primary school classes additionally attended the 18 school performances and four workshops.

A highlight in the field of **contemporary music** was the world premiere of Michel Roth's burlesque music theater work *Die Künstliche Mutter (The Artificial Mother)*. Both performances were filled to capacity. Of a total of 15 world premieres that were on the Summer Festival programming, eight



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

were premieres by young international composers that were part of the composition competition of the Swiss Association of Musicians. During the Special Event Day, Konstantia Gourzi conducted the premiere of one of her own new works for the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy. The percussionist Victor Hanna played the solo part in the new Percussion Concerto *Trurljade-Zone Zero* by composer-in-residence Olga Neuwirth.

This summer marked the fourth time that the “**Soundzz.z.zzz...z**” competition took place, a collaboration with the Kunstmuseum Luzern. Interviews with female artists form the basis of this year’s experimental documentary-artistic project by Sophia Martell and Silke Strahl on the theme of “PrimaDonna,” which can be experienced again this coming Sunday at 3 pm in the Kunstmuseum.

Attracting about 5,300 people, the “**In the Streets**” Festival was very well attended. It took place from 23 to 28 August, featuring eight world music ensembles. Around 300 people came to the two concerts in the open-air bar in Inseli Park in the series “Hosted by the Buvette.”

Radio SRF2 Kultur recorded 23 concerts, some of which were broadcast internationally; six of these concerts were broadcast live, including the Opening Concert on 12 August, which was also shown time-delayed on the same evening on SRF1 and could be enjoyed as a live stream on arte.tv. The second concert by the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle on 31 August was similarly streamed live on concert.artefv. The 52-minute-long TV documentary “Maestras” by SRF/Accentus, which was filmed during the course of the Summer Festival, can be seen on Sunday, 9 October 2016, on SRF1 on the broadcast *Sternstunde Musik* at 11.55 am and at 11.20 pm.

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