

Media Release

American Friends of Lucerne Festival in New York

Yesterday some 200 guests gathered at Carnegie Hall for the annual gala event held by the American Friends of Lucerne Festival, which included a musical performance by the pianist Yefim Bronfman and an ensemble of alumni of the Lucerne Festival Academy

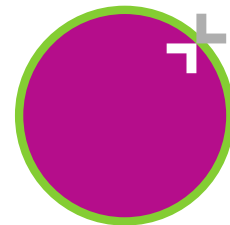
Lucerne/New York, 10 May 2016. Yesterday New York's Carnegie Hall served as the venue for the annual gala fundraising event held by the American Friends of Lucerne Festival, the most important international organization of the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival. A total of some 200 guests were invited to the event, which included cocktails, dinner, and an exclusive private concert. The pianist Yefim Bronfman and an ensemble comprising six alumni of the Lucerne Festival Academy offered an exclusive musical program featuring works by Sergei Prokofiev and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. During the evening Dr. Hubert Achermann, the President of the Foundation Friends and a member of the Board of the American Friends, was honored for his services by Carl F. Bucherer, one of the sponsors of the event. Since 2009 Dr. Achermann has helmed the Foundation Friends, since 2012 with the support of Executive Director Valentina Rota, who has gradually been expanding the circle of Friends internationally. This year the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival celebrates its 50th anniversary: as part of the 2016 Summer Festival, an exclusive Friends concert with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and its new Music Director Riccardo Chailly has been planned to take place in the KKL Luzern.

Since 2002 the American Friends of Lucerne Festival have been supporting the Festival. Their concrete mission is to enable highly gifted young musicians to participate in the Lucerne Festival Academy – each summer almost half of the students come from the United States. In addition, the American Friends have for years been making it possible for leading American artists and orchestras to tour to Lucerne. Along with André Schaller, the Swiss ambassador in New York, and his wife Brigitte Schaller, guests at the event included Klaus and Karin Jacobs (Vice Chairman of the Carnegie Hall), Cynthia Sculco, Albert Behler and Robin Kramer as well as Stanley Bergman (Chairman of the Board and CEO of Henry Schein, Inc.), Alan Vickery (Partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner) and his wife Christine Vickery, Mike Foley (CEO Zurich Insurance North America) and Thomas M. Cerabino (Chairman of Willkie Farr & Gallagher).

A photo gallery of the event can be found at the following link:
<https://www.lucernefestival.ch/en/presse/fotos>

About Lucerne Festival

Lucerne Festival encompasses a series of internationally leading festivals in the realm of classical music. Each year three distinct festivals take place: the Easter Festival, the Summer Festival, and the Piano Festival. Lucerne Festival was founded in 1938; Michael Haefliger has been Executive and Artistic Director since 1999. Each year the most acclaimed symphony orchestras come to Lucerne to perform: these include such ensembles as the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra, which was founded in 2004 by Claudio Abbado and Michael Haefliger, brings internationally acclaimed orchestral musicians to Lucerne each summer for a two-week period. Starting in 2016 Riccardo Chailly will be the orchestra's new Music Director.



Along with cultivating the traditional repertoire, contemporary music plays an essential role at Lucerne Festival in terms of programming and education. Equally important is the development of emerging talent through the programs offered by Lucerne Festival Young and the Lucerne Festival Academy. The Academy, which was founded by Pierre Boulez and Michael Haefliger, will be under a new directorship starting in 2016, with Artistic Director Wolfgang Rihm and Principal Conductor Matthias Pintscher. As Lucerne Festival Alumni, former participants in the Academy continue to have an impact in Lucerne and around the world through first-class concert projects. The KKL Luzern, a complex designed by Jean Nouvel and celebrated for its outstanding acoustics and its architecture alike, serves as the central venue for Lucerne Festival.

About the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival

The Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival was founded in 1966. Today the Friends make annual contributions that amount to about 8% of the total budget of Lucerne Festival, thereby contributing significantly to the Festival's financial security and sustainability. In this way the Friends not only have developed into the largest sponsor of the Festival but have also become an important ambassador through their moral support.

A total of about 500 ambassadors in Switzerland and around the world currently provide support for Lucerne Festival. The majority of international Friends of Lucerne Festival come from Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Spain, Israel, the United States, and Japan.

Board of the American Friends of Lucerne Festival

Alan B. Vickery (Chairman), Klaus Jacobs (Treasurer & Secretary), Dr. iur. Hubert Achermann, Beatrice Ducrot, Mike T. Foley, Michael Haefliger, Cynthia Sculco
Valentina Rota, Director of Development

The gala fundraising event in New York was supported by Vontobel, represented through Vontobel Swiss Wealth Advisors AG Inc., as Main Sponsor and by Carl F. Bucherer and Zurich Insurance North America as Co-Sponsors.

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