



# LUCERNE FESTIVAL

## Media Release

Preview of the 2020 Summer Festival | 14 August to 13 September 2020

**Inspired by Beethoven, the 2020 Festival Theme is “Joy”**

**The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will be led by Riccardo Chailly and Yannick Nézet-Séguin**

**Sylvain Cambreling and David Robertson will work with the Lucerne Festival Academy**

**The Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Alumni will combine works by Saunders and Stravinsky**

**Rebecca Saunders named Composer-in-Residence**

**Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla named “Artiste étoile”**

*Lucerne, 28 October 2019.* The inspiration for the Festival theme of “Joy” is Beethoven, whose 250th birthday is being celebrated throughout 2020. His music has become a byword for vital energy and conveys a sense of joy and meaning. Lucerne Festival will celebrate these concerts as emotional events that connect and bring together people of the most diverse backgrounds, ways of thinking, and cultures.

Beethoven’s works form a central core of this year’s Festival programming. Thus all nine symphonies will be performed by a variety of the best-known international symphony orchestras. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will open the Summer Festival with the First Symphony, led by Riccardo Chailly, and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique under Sir John Eliot Gardiner will perform Beethoven’s Ninth. Among the other ensembles appearing in the Beethoven symphony series are the Vienna Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel, the Royal Concertgebouworkest under François-Xavier Roth, and the Staatskapelle Dresden under Christian Thielemann. Other Beethoven-related programs will feature such artists as Andrés Schiff and the tenor Jan Petryka in the lieder cycle *An die ferne Geliebte* (“To the Distant Beloved”) and Igor Levit, who continues his ongoing cycle of the complete Beethoven piano sonatas. The Summer Festival program will additionally include the *Missa Solemnis* with Sir John Eliot Gardiner; the Violin Concerto, which Anne-Sophie Mutter will perform with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Manfred Honeck; and the Third Piano Concerto, with Daniil Trifonov and the Berlin Philharmonic under Kirill Petrenko. The popular Special Event Day on 30 August will become Beethoven Day, an homage to the composer offering events for the entire family.

The Summer Festival’s opening program with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly will feature the First Symphonies by Ludwig van Beethoven and Gustav Mahler, respectively. Chailly will also continue the Rachmaninoff project from last summer with that composer’s Second Symphony and Second Piano Concerto featuring Denis Matsuev as the soloist. Yannick Nézet-Séguin will again make a guest appearance to conduct the orchestra in a program of Beethoven’s Sixth Symphony and Shostakovich’s Fifth Symphony.

Along with the previously mentioned orchestras, the Berlin Philharmonic led by Kirill Petrenko and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by “artiste étoile” Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla will be guests in Lucerne. Sir George Benjamin will conduct the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Philippe Herreweghe will present Haydn’s *The Creation* with the Royal Concertgebouworkest, and Daniel Barenboim will lead the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. The Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra makes its Festival debut under Susanna Mälkki. The Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra complement the first-class roster of famous international symphony orchestras, and the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra represents the most important local orchestra. The winner of the next



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Credit Suisse Young Artist Award, to be announced in January 2020, will perform with the Vienna Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel.

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, who made her successful Lucerne debut in 2016 with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, is the first female conductor to take on the position of "artiste étoile." She will conduct Holst's *The Planets*, while her second concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra will pair Debussy's *La Mer* and Saint-Saëns' First Cello Concerto with Gautier Capuçon as the soloist. She will moreover perform as a singer at a Late Night concert featuring Arabic love songs.

As a unique training center for music of the 20th and 21st centuries, the Lucerne Festival Academy will continue to offer a broad spectrum in the summer of 2020 that ranges from modern classics to world premieres. The Composer Seminar with Wolfgang Rihm, Artistic Director of the Academy, has become an important part of the Academy's program. At Rihm's suggestion, the new series "Cosmos Boulez" will present works by the Academy's founder, the late Pierre Boulez, that are significant yet were withdrawn by the composer during his lifetime, such as *Polyphonie X*. This inaugural edition of the series will span three summers. Other Boulez works in the series include the fourth movement of *Livre pour Quatuor* performed by the Arditti Quartet and *Livre pour cordes* and *Éclat/Multiples*, in which David Robertson will again collaborate with the Lucerne Festival Academy. Sylvain Cambreling will work for the first time with the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra, which will premiere Rebecca Saunders' new piano concerto for Nicolas Hodges as part of the Roche Commissions.

The retrospective spotlighting composer-in-residence Rebecca Saunders will comprise compositions from the past ten years. Saunders composed her Trumpet Concerto for the trumpeter Marco Blaauw and *void* for Dirk Rothbrust and Christian Dierstein. Both works will be performed by the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Alumni conducted by Ian Volkov. In the summer of 2020, the Alumni will additionally present their interpretation of *Le Sacre du printemps* by Igor Stravinsky.

The Summer Festival program includes a total of seven world premieres (works by Saunders, Nante, Kurtág/Kurtág Jr./Cuendet, Pelzel, and Skrzypczak), as well as numerous Swiss premieres. For the *räsonanz* Donor Concert, which involves a collaboration of the Festival with the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation and Bavarian Radio's *musica viva*, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra led by Susanna Mälkki will perform Ammann's *The Piano Concerto (Gran Toccata)* with Andreas Haefliger as the soloist as well as works by Saariaho, Sibelius, and Nørgård. Sir George Benjamin will introduce a new work he has composed, leading the Mahler Chamber Orchestra in its Swiss premiere.

This will be the third year in a row of the Music Camp, which takes place in cooperation with Superar Suisse. This year it will feature the choreographers Tamara McLorg and Royston Maldoom, who has become known for the film *Rhythm Is It!* The Debut series will introduce seven young artists and ensembles who are on the threshold of international careers.

## Summer Festival

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## Contacts for Press and Public Relations

Nina Steinhart, Head of PR | n.steinhart@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 43

Katharina Schillen | k.schillen@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 59