



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Media Release

Lucerne Festival reports favorable final numbers for the 2018 Easter Festival, with a total of 9,000 visitors

Lucerne, 24 March 2018. This year's edition of the Easter Festival draws to its close on Sunday, 25 March. With a total of 9,000 visitors, Lucerne Festival reports a positive final tally for this nine-day festival encompassing a total of 10 events of both sacred and secular music performed in Lucerne's churches and in the KKL Luzern. The concerts had an average capacity of 88 percent*. Two of the concerts were sold out: the opening on 17 March, which featured Julia Lezhneva, Dmitry Sinkovsky, and La Voce Strumentale, and the concert on 18 March with Fatma Said, Rolando Villazón, and the Iberacademy Orchestra, Medellín. A total of 350 people attended the three-day-long master class in conducting with Bernard Haitink and the Festival Strings Lucerne. The oratorio-installation *Faust-Szenen* by Robert Schumann, presented in cooperation with the Luzerner Theater, is being premiered this evening**, and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra will be back as part of its annual residency to perform today and tomorrow, both times under the direction of Mariss Jansons, in the KKL Luzern.

The soprano Julia Lezhneva, who was artist-in-residence, presented two concerts in Lucerne's churches, and Roberto Gonzáles Monjas conducted the Iberacademy Orchestra, Medellín, which performed with Rolando Villazón and Fatma Said. Riccardo Chailly launched his annual residency at the Easter Festival with the Filarmonica della Scala, and Sir Andrés Schiff appeared as both conductor and pianist with the Cappella Andrea Barca as well as the pianist Schaghajegh Nosrati. Following a tour to Paris, Brussels, and Luxembourg, Matthias Pintscher led an ensemble of Lucerne Festival Alumni and the Ensemble intercontemporain in Olivier Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles* in Lucerne. Over a three-day period, from 21 to 23 March, young conductors had an opportunity in the eighth annual master class in conducting (open to the public) to benefit from the knowledge and experience of Bernard Haitink and to work with the Festival Strings Lucerne.

The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra will appear during this concluding weekend in two concerts led by Mariss Jansons. Today, at 18.30, they will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's Mass in C major and other works, together with the Bavarian Radio Choir and the soloists Julia Kleiter, Gerhild Romberger, Christian Elsner, and Florian Boesch. Tomorrow, at 17.00, the Russian pianist Denis Matsuev will play the *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Additionally, they will perform Robert Schumann's *Spring Symphony* and Leonard Bernsteins Divertimento for Orchestra.

* excluding the master class in conducting, projected final result as of 24 March

**additional dates in April and May can be found on the website www.luzernertheater.ch

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