

Media Release

Lucerne Festival's Exploration of "Power" Yields Highly Favorable Results: 91% Capacity for Ticketed Events at the Summer Festival

Lucerne, 13 September 2019. This year's Summer Festival draws to a close on Sunday evening, 15 September, with positive results. Since it started on 16 August, a total of 72,700 concertgoers attended the 87 events presented by Lucerne Festival. The 64 events to which tickets were sold were very well attended and attracted 62,500 concertgoers. The total capacity was 91%, an increase of 2% in comparison with 2018. There were 20 sold-out concerts this year. The 29 symphony concerts had a very high capacity at 94%. A total of 10,200 music fans attended the Festival's 23 free events, which consisted of the 40min series, the world music performances that were part of the "In the Streets" Festival, the opening event on the Special Event Day, and the Public Viewing livecast of the Opening Concert at Inseli Park.

Three symphony concerts during the Summer Festival were streamed live on the Internet: more than 80,000 viewers overall enjoyed the Lucerne Festival Orchestra performances on 17 August with Music Director Riccardo Chailly and on 22 August with guest conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the concert by the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Alumni on 8 September, which was also led by Riccardo Chailly.

Dominating this final weekend of the 81st Summer Festival is the music of Wolfgang Amadé Mozart. Today, on Friday 13 September, Cecilia Bartoli will sing selected Mozart arias. This marks her first-ever collaboration with Teodor Currentzis and musicAeterna. On Sunday, she will additionally perform the role of Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. Teodor Currentzis will conduct another Mozart-Da Ponte opera, *Don Giovanni*, on Saturday evening. All three evenings are sold out. During the day on Saturday, there will be a performance of a music theater piece featuring the ensemble ascolta as well as two presentations of the family concert *Die Blecharbeiter* ("The Brassworkers"). In addition, the performance piece *Ouverture dans la nuit* will be presented tonight and on Sunday evening in cooperation with the Luzerner Theater.

The Theme of "Power," the Mozart-Da Ponte Cycle, and Great Symphonies

This year's Festival theme of "Power" was reflected in multiple ways by the programming. For example, the Mozart-Da Ponte Cycle, comprising the three operas *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte*, involves investigations of political, erotic, and psychological power, respectively. Composer-in-residence Thomas Kessler even made musical power relations integral to the implementation of his orchestral work *Utopia III*, in which the musicians controlled the live-electronic sound modulation of their own playing. Resounding in the Salle Blanche of the KKL Luzern were the three "Fate" symphonies by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky as well as Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony: all of these works involve an aspect of the power theme. For the request concert on the Special Event Day, the audience itself was given the power to select in advance what would be played.

Guest appearances by the most renowned symphony orchestras in the world once again took place this year night after night in the KKL Luzern. Along with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, which this year was led not only by its Music Director Riccardo Chailly but also by guest conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Vienna Philharmonic was conducted by Bernard Haitink as he bid farewell to the international concert stage with Anton Bruckner's Seventh Symphony. Among the additional guest performances were those by the Berlin Philharmonic with Kirill Petrenko, the Royal Concertgebouw

Orchestra Amsterdam with Daniel Harding and Tugan Sokhiev, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra with Andris Nelsons, the Israel Philharmonic with Zubin Mehta, the London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra with Jakub Hrůša, the Mariinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev, and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra with Daniel Barenboim. The roster of eminent soloists included Emanuel Ax, Evgeny Kissin, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Emmanuel Pahud, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Tabea Zimmermann, and “artiste étoile” Leonidas Kavakos, who was the soloist in three symphony concerts and who also performed in a duo recital with Yuja Wang. The *räsonanz* Donor Concert, which is a cooperation of the Festival with the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation and Bavarian Radio’s *musica viva* initiative, this summer offered a program with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Simon Rattle and with soprano Barbara Hannigan as the soloist. Igor Levit launched his complete cycle of the 32 piano sonatas by Beethoven with two solo recitals.

A Major Role for Contemporary Music: 19 World Premieres

Largely with the participation of the Lucerne Festival Academy and Alumni, the Festival offered some 25 events featuring predominantly contemporary music, which attracted a total of 9,800 concertgoers. Another 21 concerts combined one or more works of modern and contemporary music with the classical repertoire. The Summer Festival featured 19 world premieres, including 8 works as part of the Composer Seminar led by Wolfgang Rihm, Artistic Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy.

Lucerne Festival Academy and Alumni

The participants of the Lucerne Festival Academy collaborated over a period of two weeks with such figures as the composer and conductor Sir George Benjamin, rehearsing the compositions *glut* by Dieter Ammann and *Marsyas* by Wolfgang Rihm. They also prepared performances of two brand-new works by the winners of the Roche Young Commissions, Marianna Liik and Josep Planells Schiaffino, with the conductors Ruth Reinhardt and David Fulmer. Additional focuses were such works by composer-in-residence Thomas Kessler as *...said the shotgun to the head*, which sets texts by the slam poet Saul Williams from Los Angeles. For the first time this summer, more than 90 Alumni came to Lucerne Festival to realize selected projects. Another first was the collaboration between Riccardo Chailly and the Orchestra of Lucerne Festival Alumni, which he conducted in a program of works by Alexander Mosolov, Bruno Maderna, Arnold Schoenberg, and Wolfgang Rihm. The day after they presented the program in Lucerne, they headed to the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg to perform it there as well.

Special Event Day for the Whole Family

The Special Event Day on 1 September offered an entire day filled with colorful concert programming for families, children, and adults, attracting a total of 4,000 visitors. Outside the KKL Luzern on the Europaplatz, Academy participants with percussionist Robyn Schulkowsky opened the Special Event Day. Power was given to the audience for the program by the Festival Strings Lucerne, and additional performances included the Young production “Pizz’n’Zip”, a version of Stravinsky’s *L’histoire du soldat* featuring an ensemble of Lucerne Festival Alumni, and the musical creations resulting from the Composer Seminar led by the Artistic Director of the Academy, Wolfgang Rihm. In cooperation with the Luzerner Theater, Ruedi Häusermann presented his project *Tonhalle (Luzern, Europaplatz 1b)* in what was the Festival’s smallest venue.

Free Offerings at Lucerne Festival

Some 2,700 people attended the eight events comprising this year's 40min series, while the "In the Streets" Festival appealed to some 5,600 Lucerners. Enjoying the very fine summer weather were 800 music fans who attended the Public Viewing open-air live broadcast of the Opening Concert at Inseli Park. Another 1,100 guests came to enjoy such additional free events as the concerts hosted by the Buvette and the launch of a new book about Bernard Haitink.

Concerts for Families and Children and the Stars of Tomorrow

A highlight in the Young offerings was the second annual edition of the Music Camp in cooperation with Superar Suisse. More than 180 children and young people from Superar Suisse and its Peruvian partner organization Sinfonía por el Perú spent a week rehearsing in Lucerne and concluded the Camp with an inspiring final concert that featured an appearance by Juan Diego Flórez. Seven young musicians and ensembles were presented as part of the Debut series, including the percussionist Marianna Bednarska, the winner of the 2019 "Prix Credit Suisse Jeunes Solistes" Award. Four of the Debut artists introduced themselves and their instruments in appearances at Lucerne schools. A total of about 2,000 children and youngsters attended six school performances of the Young productions.

Live-Streamed Concerts

Several of the Festival's concerts were also broadcast live on the Internet this summer. The Opening Concert of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly was shown on television on SRF 1 on the same evening, with a time delay. Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony was streamed on the Festival's YouTube channel, garnering 25,000 views. Guest conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin's debut with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra was broadcast on medici.tv and seen by more than 50,000 viewers. On 8 September, the Festival streamed the Lucerne Festival Alumni concert with Riccardo Chailly live on YouTube, which has tallied 5,300 views to date. All of the video streams can be viewed until the end of the Festival. Radio SRF 2 Kultur recorded ten concerts and broadcast live from the KKL Luzern on three evenings. Just under 25,000 fans viewed Instagram as Festival artists took over the channel for one day each, including Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Long Yu, Denis Matsuev, the JACK Quartet, musicians from the London Symphony Orchestra, and Lucerne Festival Academy participants and Alumni.

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