

Media Release

With 9,000 concertgoers, favorable final numbers for the 2019 Easter Festival

Lucerne, 13 April 2019. The 2019 edition of the Easter Festival draws to its close on Sunday, 14 April. Lucerne Festival can report a very favorable final tally: a total of 9,000 people attended, with an average capacity of 88 percent for the nine events that featured sacred and secular music in various Lucerne churches as well as in the KKL Luzern. Two concerts were sold out, the Opening Concert with the Vienna Choirboys in the Jesuitenkirche and the Verdi Requiem with Teodor Currentzis and the musicAeterna Orchestra and Chorus of Perm Opera.

The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra will perform this weekend in two concerts. Today at 6.30 p.m., Iván Fischer will conduct the ensemble in two symphonies by Wolfgang Amadé Mozart as well as the First Violin Concerto by Béla Bartók, with the Dutch violinist Janine Jansen as the soloist. Tomorrow at 5.00 p.m., Bernard Haitink will conduct the BR Symphony Orchestra in a program including the Piano Concerto in C major, K. 503, by Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, with the Austrian pianist Till Fellner as the soloist, and then Anton Bruckner's Sixth Symphony, with which he will bring this year's Easter Festivals to its conclusion.

The Easter Festival opened with the Vienna Boys' Choir making their Lucerne debut in a program of sacred music ranging from Mozart and Handel to Hindu song and a selection from the score to the film "Sister Act." As artist-in-residence, the French harpsichordist and conductor Emmanuelle Haïm appeared for two evenings, presenting sacred and secular instrumental music from the European Baroque and an all-Handel program. Local ensembles were also part of the Festival: Ulrike Grosch conducted the Collegium Vocale zu Franziskanern and Howard Arman led the Junge Philharmonie Zentralschweiz and the Akademiechor Luzern. Teodor Currentzis conducted the musicAeterna orchestra and chorus of Perm Opera in Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*, with Zarina Abaeva, Eve-Maud Hubeaux, Dmytro Popov, and Tareq Nazmi as the soloists. Riccardo Chailly appeared with the Filarmonica della Scala and the pianist Denis Matsuev for an all-Russian program at the KKL Luzern, including Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor and Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* in the orchestral version by Maurice Ravel.

Videos, photos, and background information about the Easter Festival can be found on Lucerne Festival's Facebook and Instagram channels:

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Contacts for Press and Public Relations

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

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