

Press Release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer 2011: “Night” 10 August to 18 September 2011

The Festival Theme of “Night”

LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer 2011 will explore the phenomenon of night in music. The focus will be on composers who are visionaries and dreamers, mystics and masters of dark sounds. Dedicated to the dark and the unconscious, music itself is an art of the night. Certainly this notion held sway during the Romantic era: “The composer reveals the innermost essence of the world and expresses the profoundest wisdom in a language which his reason does not understand,” the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer believed. And composer Gustav Mahler once compared someone who makes music to a sleepwalker: “He doesn’t know where he’s walking (perhaps on the edge of a dizzying abyss), but he heads toward the distant light – whether this is the eternally radiant star or an enticing will-o’-the-wisp.”

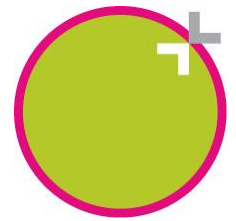
Five Aspects of Night

The leitmotif of Night will be presented in five highly varied aspects. One series of programs will investigate examples of the stylistically influential paradigm **“through night into the light”** (that is, “per aspera ad astra”) found in Beethoven and his successors. A cycle will be devoted to **Anton Bruckner**, that great mystic among the symphonists, while another, **“Insomnia,”** will consider the phenomenon of sleeplessness. **Fairy-tales, myths, and creatures associated with the night** will be represented, and of course various forms of **“night music”** (in a literal sense) belong to the agenda as well: serenades, night songs, and nocturnes spanning four centuries.

Overview of Orchestras, Conductors, and Soloists

Claudio Abbado and his LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA – fixed stars in the musical firmament – will have a significant presence in the festival’s first two weeks with a total of six concerts. Multiple guest appearances are scheduled for the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, as well as the Staatskapelle Orchestras of Berlin and Dresden. Along with Claudio Abbado and Pierre Boulez, this year’s podium stars include Daniel Barenboim, Riccardo Chailly, Bernard Haitink, Daniel Harding, Riccardo Muti, Andris Nelsons, Simon Rattle, Christian Thielemann, Franz Welser-Möst, and Zubin Mehta. And Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Vladimir Jurowski will make their festival debuts.

With great pleasure we look forward to appearances by Maurizio Pollini – who will open his series “Pollini Perspectives” – Radu Lupu, Anna Prohaska, Christine Schäfer, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Ian Bostridge, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Yefim Bronfman, Vadim Repin, Barbara Hannigan, Teodoro Anzellotti, Tzimon Barto, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Julia Fischer, Fanny Clamagirand, Antoine Tamestit, Nina Stemme, Peter Seiffert, and Kwangchul Youn – to name only some of the outstanding vocal and instrumental soloists who will perform in a total of 34 symphony concerts as well as in chamber music and solo events.



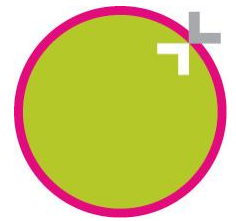
“Artistes étoiles” Hagen Quartet and Charlotte Hug, Composer-in-Residence Georg Friedrich Haas, and Seven World Premieres

Two “artistes étoiles” who could hardly be more different have been invited to appear this year. One is the Hagen Quartet, which celebrates its 30th anniversary, and the other is Swiss multimedia artist Charlotte Hug, an intrepid explorer who blurs the boundaries between composition and improvisation and between visual art and performance. The Hagens, who enjoy a particularly close bond with the Festival as members of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA, will play three programs, offering works from Beethoven to the present. Charlotte Hug will implement her musical-visual spatial installation “Insomnia” in the Museum of Art Lucerne and will also collaborate with the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY to present her new composition, “Nachtplasmen,” for orchestra, Son Icons, and video. The work will be heard twice, separated by an interlude of improvisation performed by Charlotte Hug and the Stellari String Quartet, which she cofounded.

Austrian composer Georg Friedrich Haas is this year’s composer-in-residence. Works covering fifteen years will be presented in the framework of a career survey, ranging from a newly staged production of his opera “Nacht” (“Night”), inspired by the poet Friedrich Hölderlin, to the world premiere of his String Quartet No. 7, which uses live electronics. Five more compositions will also receive their world premieres this summer in Lucerne. Matthias Pintscher unveils his most recent Violin Concerto, written for Julia Fischer; Maurizio Pollini gives the first performance of Giacomo Manzoni’s “Il rumore del tempo” as part of his new series “Pollini Perspectives”; and the 12 cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic introduce a new work by Sofia Gubaidulina. A completely new version of Hanspeter Kyburz’s choreographic project “Double Points: OYTIZ” will be performed for the first time, and the Freiburg-based ensemble recherche will present a new composition by Brian Ferneyhough.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY under Pierre Boulez and the Forum, Open Stage, Spotlights, and Master Class in Conducting Programs

Pierre Boulez, Peter Eötvös, Oliver Hagen, Susanna Mälkki, and David Robertson will work with participants in the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY to prepare programs with several points of focus in the Summer Festival 2011. These include a cross-section of relatively recent French music history, a tribute to Stockhausen, works of the Second Viennese School, and Boulez’s own masterful homage to the poet Stéphane Mallarmé, “Pli selon pli.” Through a collaborative project with “artiste étoile” Charlotte Hug, the students will gain experience in the field of improvisation. In 2011 the general public, too, can once again enjoy the wisdom and insight that Boulez has gathered over a lifetime of experience: a brilliant communicator, Boulez will provide introductory talks before the concerts and will also give audiences an enlightening look behind the scenes in the series of Forum discussions. Open Stage offers Academy students an hour-long platform for spontaneous performances, while the new series Spotlights presents former participants in the Academy who daringly bridge the gap with other musical forms. A week-long, publicly accessible Master Class in Conducting will also be held. An integral part of this year’s LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY, it will feature works by Schoenberg and Boulez himself.



The Debut Series, Music in the Theater, LUCERNE FESTIVAL Young, and LUCERNE FESTIVAL in the Streets

A total of nine concerts in our Debut Series of artists will allow audiences to discover young soloists and ensembles, including the winner of the prestigious Prix Credit Suisse Jeunes Solistes Award for 2011, Chinese cellist Mi Zhou. This year's coproduction with the Luzerner Theater brings a performance of Benjamin Britten's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The area of children's concerts has been extensively developed: in addition to five different programs for children between the ages of 4 and 11, for the first time a total of seven workshops, open rehearsals, and concert formats designed especially for youth are being offered. And the beloved street music festival will take place from 23 to 28 August, featuring eight musical groups from around the world performing in the most beautiful locations throughout the city of Lucerne.

"A Festival for Lucerne"

This is the name of our extensive additional program which will offer open-air broadcasts and films, cabaret and light shows, jam sessions and dance, with free admission to some events. Together with other cultural partners in the city, LUCERNE FESTIVAL will present these events on the Inseli, at the Südpol, in the Kleintheater, and in front of the Luzerner Theater.

Further discoveries are in store through talks with artists, an ambitious film series in collaboration with the stattkino Luzern, and the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*-sponsored presentation on the festival theme "Night."

Ticket Sales for LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer 2011

Online and postal/FAX ticket sales begin on Monday, 2 May 2011, at noon, through our website (www.lucernefestival.ch) or by mailing a written order form or faxing it to: +41 (0)41 226 44 85

Telephone ticket sales begin on Thursday, 19 May 2011: +41 (0) 41 226 44 80

Box office sales at the KKL Luzern start Monday, 8 August 2011, daily from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

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