



Media Release

“Début”: International Platform for Young Artists

In 1964 a new concert series was created in order to focus on the promotion of young talents: “The Festival Presents Young Artists.” In the four decades of its existence it has witnessed the Lucerne débuts of many renowned musicians, such as Jacqueline du Pré (1965), Kurt Widmer (1967), Anne-Sophie Mutter (1976), the Hagen Quartet (1980), Christian Tetzlaff (1989), Sol Gabetta (2001) and Julia Fischer (2001). Having taken an active interest in young musicians for decades in its master classes, LUCERNE FESTIVAL pursues with conviction this trail: a festival of international stature promotes young musicians by offering them highly visible performance opportunities. This year the Début series will include a total of nine concerts.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL deliberately designed this series to be a chamber music forum characterized by a balanced mixture between solo recitals and ensemble performances, as well as a high variety in the range of instruments. The participation of young Swiss musicians is one of the Festival’s central concerns. At least one Swiss artist is showcased at Début every year. First-rate performance skills, a distinctive repertoire, and close ties to the Festival’s guiding themes in their choice of pieces are key factors in deciding which musicians will take part.

Artists Appearing in the 2007 Début Series

20 August, Marie-Elisabeth Hecker (cello) and Martin Helmchen (piano)

25 August, Andriy Dragan (piano) – Prizewinner Concert "Prix Credit Suisse Jeunes Solistes"

27 August, Leila Pfister (mezzo-soprano, winner of the Ernst Haefliger Competition) and Hartmut Höll (piano)

1 September, Boris Giltburg (piano)

3 September, Koryun Asatryan (saxophone) and Agapi Triantafyllidi (piano)

8 September, Konstanze von Gutzeit (cello) and Paul Rivinius (piano)

10 September, Stradivari Quartet

15 September, Vilde Frang (violin) and Julien Quentin (piano)

17 September, Pavel Haas Quartet

All concerts in the Début series are held at the Casineum of Lucerne Casino and begin at 12:15 pm.

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