



## Media release

### LUCERNE FESTIVAL in the Streets

Tuesday, 24 August to Sunday, 29 August 2010

Streets and Squares of Lucerne

Entrance free of charge, donations

For the fifth time LUCERNE FESTIVAL will go onto the streets and squares of Lucerne's Old Town to present a colourful panorama of music from every corner of the world. Lucerne residents, tourists and travelling music aficionados can experience at first hand the brilliant, fascinating and exhilarating musical universe of our planet.

This year the Festival will welcome eight groups of musicians from various points of the compass: Spain, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Italy and North Africa. They will appear at four squares in Lucerne's Old Town from Tuesday to Sunday, between 6 and 10 o'clock every evening and during the day on Saturday. The groups will be introduced in an opening event in front of Lucerne's KKL Cultural and Congress Centre on 24 August, and the Festival will be rounded off with a special Sunday programme including appearances on the Lakeside Promenade and a final concert in the KKL.

The "venues" are Lucerne's town plazas: Mühleplatz, Kornmarkt, Kapellplatz and Jesuitenplatz. If weather poses an obstacle, the performances will be moved to sheltered locations, likewise in the Old Town. Entrance to all events is free of charge; listeners can pay the artists as they see fit by tossing an appropriate 'baksheesh' into the hat. Creature comforts will be taken care of by nearby restaurant and snack stands with special delicacies for the Festival. Like the main festival, the theme of the Street Music Festival is 'Eros'. Most of the groups come from the field of world music and have deep roots in their native traditions. In folk music feelings and emotions, rather than being artistically elevated, are usually expressed with unaffected naturalness and candour. That's why we've selected, from the concept of 'Eros', the aspect of immediate sensuality and focus directly on the musical experience.

We will be joined by two ensembles consisting entirely of women: four flamenco performers from Spain (who already excited audiences two years ago) and five Czech musicians with thrilling gypsy music. That 'male' music can also be fiery and sensuous will be proved by four men from the Emilia Romagna region of Italy. For a young ensemble from South Africa, sensuality is a synonym for joyous singing, drums and dance. A quartet from Sardinia will treat us to the sounds of three cellos and double bass with tunes and dances from all over the world. 'Eros' has always been central to traditional Arabic music and Oriental dance – as will be demonstrated by the group coming from North Africa. And for the first time a music theatre company will make an appearance and transport us into the world of opera – not on a wooden stage but on cobblestones and asphalt. All these musicians are masters of their trade and will give audiences a colourful and lively programme, bringing to Lucerne many facets of the sensual experience of music.

## Contact

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