



Media Release

Street Music Festival

Tuesday, 25 August to Sunday, 30 August

Streets and squares of Lucerne

Free of charge, donations

For the fourth year in a row LUCERNE FESTIVAL will welcome the *crème de la crème* of the world's buskers to Lucerne's Old Town. There local citizens, tourists, and fans of street and world music will experience the scintillating, spellbinding, exhilarating world of street music at close quarters.

This year LUCERNE FESTIVAL has invited eight groups of musicians from all corners of the globe. They will appear between 6 and 10 p.m. every evening from Tuesday to Sunday and during the day on Saturday. Rounding off the festival are an opening concert in front of the KKL concert hall to introduce the groups (25 August) and a special Sunday program with appearances on the lakeside promenade and a final concert in the KKL concert hall. The "venues" will be Lucerne's town squares (Mühle-, Kapell-, Falken-, Rosengart-, Franziskaner- and Theaterplatz) and market squares (Korn- and Weinmarkt). In case of bad weather the performances will take place in protected locations, also in the Old Town. The entrance to all events is free; listeners can pay the artists as they see fit by tossing a "baksheesh" into the traditional hat. Creature comforts will be taken care of in the adjoining taverns and restaurants, some of which will provide special dishes for Festival visitors.

This year's Street Festival likewise recalls the theme of Nature. Most of the groups come from the field of world music and have deep roots in their native traditions. These groups usually hail from rural areas, thereby ensuring a close affinity with nature. This year, too, we drew from a wealth of options and present a wide range of folk-music formations from every corner of the globe. Two spectacular groups represent Asia: horse-head fiddles and overtone singing from the endless steppes of Mongolia, and a colorful ensemble from the Indian province of Rajasthan consisting of musicians, singers, a dancer, and a fakir. Other non-European sounds include complex rhythms from the bastion of percussion music, Ghana, and exhilarating Cajun music from the Louisiana bayous. Europe appears in a lovely mélange from north to south: heartwarming Nordic sounds from Scandinavia and Breton lays from France, not to mention Sardinia, the musical island *par excellence*. Joining the crowd is a local Swiss group specializing in music on natural instruments. All these musicians, the very best in their field, will offer audiences a rich and lively program that brings many musical facets from the world of nature to the streets of Lucerne.

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