



Media release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer 2010 – “Eros”

12 August - 18 September 2010

What is “Eros”?

In Plato's Symposium, the guests at an artistic get-together speculate about the nature of Eros, the god of love. One of the guests, the playwright Aristophanes, relates the parable of man's originally spherical form, which Zeus cruelly split in two. Since then all of us have been ceaselessly seeking our missing halves. The discussion flares up: does the god Eros inspire only the desire for physical satisfaction, or is he also concerned with the union of minds, with spiritual love? Does Eros stand more deeply for the reconciliation of opposites – of heaven and earth, body and soul? Doesn't Eros also affect our longing for Beauty, Truth and Goodness in the arts and sciences? This “Eros” factor was the guiding idea behind the programmers' choice for our 2010 Summer Festival.

A Programme Overview

The focus falls on famous lovers. The opening concert features Beethoven's paean to conjugal love, *Fidelio*, performed by Claudio Abbado and the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA. Audiences will encounter fateful romantic triangles in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* and Schoenberg's *Gurre-Lieder*. The moving tragedy of *Romeo and Juliet* will resound in two versions: Prokofiev's ballet and Tchaikovsky's fantasy-overture. *Don Juan* is de rigueur, of course, as are his Finnish counterpart *Lemminkäinen* and the St. Petersburg lounge lizard *Eugene Onegin*. Antiquity will be represented by *Daphnis et Chloë* and *Amor et Psyche*, the Middle Ages by troubadours, the early Italian baroque by a vivacious *Teatro d'amore*. Nor do we shun such controversial topics as incest or narcissism. Other programme items include musical billets doux from Gustav Mahler to Alma Schindler, from Richard Wagner to Mathilde Wesendonck, and from Johannes Brahms to Hermine Spies. And we will yield to the Eros of music as we hear the faun's flute or the drumbeat of *Bolero*.

Orchestras, Conductors and Soloists – a Quick Survey

Audiences will be regaled with several concerts each from visiting orchestras: the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics, the Cleveland Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the London Philharmonia and the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Besides Claudio Abbado and Pierre Boulez, this summer's list of star conductors also includes Riccardo Chailly, Gustavo Dudamel, Daniel Harding, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Mariss Jansons, Andris Nelsons, Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Michael Tilson Thomas, Franz Welsler-Möst and David Zinman.

We also eagerly await the solo artists Thomas Quasthoff, Nina Stemme, Jonas Kauffmann, Yvonne Naef, Christine Schäfer, Karita Mattila, Anne Sofie von Otter, Philippe Jarousky, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Maurizio Pollini, Lars Vogt, Frank Peter Zimmermann, András Schiff, Christian Tetzlaff and Marin Grubinger as well Nicolas Altstaedt, winner of the “Credit Suisse Young Artist Award 2010”, to mention only a few of the

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outstanding vocalists and instrumentalists to be heard in the total of 33 orchestral concerts and the wide array of recitals.

“artiste étoile” Hélène Grimaud, “composer-in-residence” Dieter Ammann and 27 premières

This year's “artiste étoile” is Hélène Grimaud, the French pianist who holds audiences spellbound with her virtuosity and verve, playfulness and poetry. Our “composer-in-residence”, Dieter Ammann, started out as a jazz musician and improviser – an unusual Swiss success story perfectly in tune with the premières and artists in the “(z)eidgenössisCH” Festival (11-12 September 2010). This festival, whose name is a multi-level pun on 'contemporary' and the Swiss terms for Switzerland, is devoted to the lively Swiss music scene with a programme featuring 24 world premières and its own theme. The Festival has initiated a total of 27 world premières, including the prestigious “Roche Commission” given to Toshio Hosokawa.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY and Pierre Boulez

This year's LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY has modern masterpieces in view as Pierre Boulez conducts works by Mahler and Scriabin, Schoenberg and Stravinsky. It goes without saying that the programme also features the music of today: the orchestra will present the première of a new composition from “composer-in-residence” Dieter Ammann. The young musicians will also play a recently premiered work by Elliott Carter, who just turned 101, and will have an opportunity to study pieces by Boulez under the master's own supervision.

Débuts, Music Theatre, Children's Corner and LUCERNE FESTIVAL in the Streets

Young soloists can be heard and discovered in a total of eight Début concerts. This year's coproduction with Lucerne Theatre will present a performance of Hans Werner Henze's *Phaedra*. Once again five Children's Corner programmes invite our young guests to listen to and make music, and include a musical adaptation of the fairy-tale *Caliph Stork*. The popular Street Music Festival, now renamed 'LUCERNE FESTIVAL in the Streets', will introduce eight ensembles from all corners of the earth on Lucerne's loveliest squares from 24 to 29 August.

Further discoveries include meet-the-artist talks, the Academy Forums, two sound installations, an ambitious film series with artist documentaries (in collaboration with Lucerne's Stattkino), a master class with András Schiff and a round-table discussion on 'Eros' by the Neue Zürcher Zeitung.

Ticket Sales for LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer 2010

Written orders by mail or internet starting at noon on Wednesday, 7 April 2010
www.lucernefestival.ch | fax: +41(0)41 226 4485; Telephone orders starting on Monday, 7 June, 2010, at +41 (0)41 226 4480; Box office sales in Lucerne's KKL Cultural and Congress Centre starting on Monday, 9 August 2010

For further information see www.lucernefestival.ch