



Media Release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL's executive and artistic director Michael Haefliger is delighted to report that Claudio Abbado has extended his contract as musical director of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA for another four years to the end of 2014. "To me, working with this orchestra means making music among friends," says Abbado to explain his decision. "I've known many of the soloists for years; they're my lifelong musical companions. The Mahler Chamber Orchestra, which forms the core of the LFO, has been familiar to me since its inception. Listening to each other as if playing chamber music: I've been able to do this in Lucerne with a full orchestra. And we still have lots of ongoing projects."

Claudio Abbado and Michael Haefliger co-founded the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA in 2003, patterning it after the festival orchestra assembled by Arturo Toscanini that existed until 1993. Early each August the musicians gather together in Lucerne to rehearse before Abbado and his orchestra open the LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer with a concert series. Since 2005 the orchestra has regularly held foreign residencies that have taken them to the great concert halls of Rome, Tokyo, New York, and Vienna. In 2007 it also gave a guest performance at the famous BBC Proms in London. Concerts with the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA under Maestro Abbado are scheduled to take place in Peking in September 2009.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions:

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