



Media Release

Yefim Bronfman, *artiste étoile*

He would need five human lifetimes to study all the works that interest him, Yefim Bronfman confessed to the *Los Angeles Times*: “What motivates me is new repertoire. I can’t think of anything more exciting than to commission and learn new pieces of music.” Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 1958, Bronfman emigrated with his family to Israel at the age of five and took on American citizenship in 1989. As *artiste étoile* of this year’s Summer Festival, he now has an opportunity to demonstrate the full range of his versatility. He will play Brahms’s Second Piano Concerto with the Vienna Philharmonic, the Berg *Chamber Concerto* with the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY ORCHESTRA, and, with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Esa-Pekka Salonen’s Piano Concerto, a work dedicated to him. He will devote himself to Beethoven, Schumann, and Russian romantics in a piano recital and play chamber music with this year’s composer-in-residence Jörg Widmann, including his *Eleven Humoresques*. Chamber music, Bronfman claims, is the maximum: “The wonderful thing about it is the constant give and take, communicating by means of sound.”

For thirty years, ever since his début with the New York Philharmonic in 1978, Bronfman has been in the top echelon of the world’s greatest pianists. His virtuosity, his powerful “paws”, his spontaneity, and his sensitive interpretations are objects of universal amazement. However, this pupil of Rudolf Firkušný, Leon Fleisher, and Rudolf Serkin never was a grandstander. Bronfman sits at the piano like solid rock, celebrating his art with almost stoic tranquility while unleashing stormy waves of emotion. In this respect he sees himself in good company: “Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli never moved one muscle too many. But when he lifted his eyebrows that meant a whole lot.”

Concert Dates with Yefim Bronfman:

Symphony Concert 8 (25 August): Philharmonia Orchestra, London, with Esa-Pekka Salonen and Yefim Bronfman

Chamber Orchestra Concert (29 August): LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY Orchestra with Pierre Boulez, Lisa Batiashvili and Yefim Bronfman

Chamber Music 4 (5 September): Jörg Widmann and Yefim Bronfman

Symphony Concert 21 (7 September): Vienna Philharmonic with Zubin Mehta and Yefim Bronfman

Piano Recital (13 September): Yefim Bronfman

Meet the Artist 4 (30 August): Yefim Bronfman and Norbert Graf

Contact

B. Higgs, Head of Public Relations | +41 (0)41 226 44 43 | b.higgs@lucernefestival.ch

P. Deslarzes, Public Relations | +41 (0)41 226 44 59 | p.deslarzes@lucernefestival.ch

Hirschmattstrasse 13 | Postfach | 6002 Luzern | Schweiz | www.lucernefestival.ch