



Media release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY and Pierre Boulez

‘When I was young, the conditions for contemporary music were unimaginably bad. I remember concerts in Paris and Vienna where I’d studied the scores beforehand, but what I heard live at the concert was pure chaos. Schoenberg’s op. 29 Suite, for example – believe me, it was horrible. I’m sure the musicians had lots of good will, but they had no good potential. I said to myself at the time: if ever I get to perform contemporary music myself, then only at the highest professional level. Anything else is a disservice to music.’

This early experience left a lasting mark on Pierre Boulez. He turned his resolution into reality in 2004 when he co-founded the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY with the Festival’s managing and artistic director Michael Haefliger. The work he accomplishes at the Academy in its daily rehearsals, workshops and lessons is one of a kind. In summer 2010 he will join the teachers from the Ensemble Intercontemporain to give some 120 young musicians from all over the world the tools they need to perform contemporary music.

The Academy Forum series provides an opportunity to cast a glance behind the scenes and to watch the students at work with their teachers as they come to grips with select compositions ranging from modern masterpieces to the present day. This year Boulez has chosen works from the Second Viennese School and Igor Stravinsky for the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY Orchestra. The programme also includes the latest composition by Elliott Carter and a newly commissioned work from composer-in-residence Dieter Ammann, who will talk about his most recent score in two Atelier events. Also represented is the immediate run-up to modernism with Alexander Scriabin’s *Le Poème de l’Exstase* and Gustav Mahler’s Sixth Symphony. The LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY Ensemble will devote itself to Schoenberg’s *Pierrot lunaire* and study chamber music by Boulez – in interaction with the composer himself, of course.

Further, a master class will introduce highly talented young conductors into the mysteries of orchestral conducting in analysis lessons and rehearsals with the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY Orchestra, allowing the audience to see how a performance emerges.

Finally, two Open Stage events allow the Academy’s participants to present, on their own initiative, solo and chamber music from the 20th and 21st centuries that they have mastered in their lessons.

All Academy Forum events are free of charge.

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