



Media release

Dieter Ammann, Composer-in-Residence

'I like to be surprised, to be thrown into a maelstrom of musical feelings and be swept away', explains Dieter Ammann, composer-in-residence at this year's Summer Festival. 'Music that "hits me in the face" is far more to my liking than music that requires 17 doors to be opened before I find out what it's about.' Ammann's experiences as a listener have also left a mark on his creative work. Rather than submitting to ideologies or doctrines in one form or another, or hiding behind the academic game of manipulating material, he has the courage to freely go his own way: 'That's why you can find tonal pieces in my work, and sometimes spaces where dissonance and consonance are distinguishable. Then there are others that take total chromaticism down to quarter-tone tunings.'

Many things set Dieter Ammann apart from his fellow composers, beginning with his professional career. Born in Aarau in 1962, he approached music by way of improvisation, playing by ear. After taking a degree from the Berne Jazz School, he was a respected jazz musician for many years before he began to study composition at the Basle Academy of Music in 1988. Even today, he confides, he often considers musical notation a 'roundabout route' and feels that he has a different feeling for rhythm. None of this has been a drawback to his art 'Everything is so fresh', exclaims Wolfgang Rihm about Ammann's music, 'not a second of idle time, everything's alive and permeated in the best sense by lines of force that remain powerful and unbroken even when they take off in contrary directions.'

In Lucerne Ammann will present ensemble pieces, string quartets and madrigals as well as two orchestral works, *Core* and *Boost*, which he will expand into a triptych with his new piece *Turn*, to be premiered by Pierre Boulez and the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY Orchestra. And it goes without saying that he can be heard as an improviser – during the weekend of modern music, '(z)eidgenössisCH'.

Concerts and Dates with Dieter Ammann:

Modern 1 (15 August): Ensemble Intercontemporain, Susanna Mälkki

Academy Forum 2 (23 August): LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY Orchestra, Pierre Boulez

Academy Forum 3 (25 August): Dieter Ammann

Symphony Concert 9 (25 August): LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY Orchestra, Pierre Boulez

Meet the Artist 4 (28 August): Dieter Ammann in conversation with Annelis Berger

Chamber Music 4 (28 August): Casal Quartet

Modern 6 (11 September): "(z)eidgen"ssisCH" - Improvisation III and Dance Music II

Modern 8 (12 September): "(z)eidgen"ssisCH" – Lucerne School of Music, Peter Siegwart

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