



## Media Release

### Jörg Widmann, composer-in-residence

“The most important thing in my artistic career is to combine tradition and innovation”, says Jörg Widmann, composer-in-residence at this year’s LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer. Born in Munich in 1973, Widmann is also a clarinetist of international stature. As such, he has a wealth of experience with tradition and possesses a more relaxed approach to the legacy of history than many of his fellow composers. Widmann succeeds in thinking outside the box, which explains why he will have no truck with exclusively avant-garde festivals: “I think we should carefully listen to the late Schumann compositions, for example the *Ghost Variations*, which I consider the strangest and most wonderful piano pieces of all. Then people would discover just how modern Schumann is – probably more modern than the rest of us put together. It works the other way round too, of course: I find it just as important for new works to be played in subscription concerts. We need to overcome our pigeonhole mentality.”

In Lucerne Widmann has found an ideal framework to present his art that reveals interaction with tradition. Here his orchestral music, piano pieces, quartets, and fantasies are coupled with Mozart, Weber, and Schumann, with Wagner, Brahms, and Berg. Widmann will also give a one-man concert, of course, and the world première of his oboe concerto for Heinz Holliger is awaited with keen anticipation. But he will also perform Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto and chamber music with Yefim Bronfman. Variety is his forte – and a boon to the audience, for anyone who hears Widmann’s clarinet playing will come to a different and better understanding of his scores. As his teacher Wolfgang Rihm put it, “Jörg Widmann is capable of anything.”

### Concert Dates with Jörg Widmann:

**Academy Forum 1** (13 August): Jörg Widmann and composition students from Swiss conservatories

**Introduction to Symphony Concert 1** (13 August): Jörg Widmann and Roland Wächter

**Symphony Concert 1** (13 August): Mahler Chamber Orchestra with George Benjamin, Heinz Holliger and Claire Booth

**Academy Forum 2** (14-15 August and 12-13 September): Contemporary Music Studio of the Lucerne conservatory, with Jörg Widmann

**Introduction to Modern 1** (22 August): Jörg Widmann and Roland Wächter

**Modern 1** (22 August): Ensemble Collegium Novum, Zurich, with Jörg Widmann and Olga Pasichnyk

**Meet the Artist 2** (22 August): Jörg Widmann and David Schwarz

**Introduction to Modern 3** (29 August): Jörg Widmann, Klaus Huber and Mark Sattler

## Contact

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

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

Hirschmattstrasse 13 | Postfach | 6002 Luzern | Schweiz | [www.lucernefestival.ch](http://www.lucernefestival.ch)

**Modern 3** (29 August): Arditti Quartet and Heinz Holliger

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

**Introduction to Symphony Concert 30** (16 September): Jörg Widmann and Roland Wächter

**Symphony Concert 30** (16 September): Southwest German RSO, Baden-Baden and Freiburg, with Sylvain Cambreling and Jörg Widmann

**Academy Forum 9** (17 September): Contemporary Music Studio of the Lucerne conservatory, with Jörg Widmann