LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Media Release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY and Pierre Boulez

“There are of course plenty of conservatories and music academies”, Pierre Boulez points out, “but they often give short shrift to contemporary music”. This is why Boulez founded the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY in 2004, a sort of high school in which 130 highly gifted young musicians from all corners of the globe deepen their performance skills in twentieth- and twenty-first-century music during daily rehearsals, workshops, and lessons. “We focus on a brief period of time, roughly three weeks altogether, and on a few special works and topics”, Boulez explains. “And there are world premières every year, so the students can learn from practical experience what ‘contemporary music’ really means.”

This summer the focus will fall on music with live electronics, above all Pierre Boulez’s epochal *Répons*, but also works by the Festival’s composers-in-residence Kaija Saariaho and Jörg Widmann. As in the past, the students will be taught by members of the Ensemble Intercontemporain, but this year teachers have also been invited from IRCAM, the research institute Boulez founded in Paris’s Centre Pompidou. Thus, issues related to electronic sound manipulation can be learned “from the horse’s mouth.” Yet, the repertoire that the ensembles and orchestra of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY will perform is laid out on a far broader scale. It will span over some one-hundred years and extend from early modern masterpieces by Leoš Janáček, Claude Debussy, and Alban Berg to composers of our own time, including the French Spectralist Tristan Murail and the young Italian Bruno Mantovani. Boulez himself will conduct three concerts with his students while the young French conductor Jean Deroyer will take charge of an ensemble program. There will also be an opening concert with the teaching staff, a chamber recital, and a master class for conductors. Finally, the audience can become better acquainted with the musicians and composers in rehearsals and workshops.

For further information: www.lucernefestival.ch

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