



## Media release

### LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter 2009

28 March – 5 April 2009

Symphony and choral concerts, two Masses, and the conclusion of the Beethoven cycle prepared exclusively for LUCERNE FESTIVAL: these are our festival highlights for the coming Easter season.

Bernard Haitink's much-acclaimed and highly successful Beethoven cycle with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe – including all the symphonies, overtures, and concertos in Jonathan del Mar's new critical edition – is about to enter its final stretch. The first evening will feature the "Leonore" Overture No. 1, the Third Piano Concerto (with Maria João Pires), and the Second Symphony. It will be followed by the "Leonore" Overture No. 3, the Second Piano Concerto (again with Maria João Pires), and the Eighth Symphony. Performances of the First and Ninth Symphonies will conclude this monumental cycle.

2009 is a "Haydn Year," and Nikolaus Harnoncourt, a longstanding guest at our Easter Festival, will present Haydn's C-minor Symphony and the C-major *Missa in tempore belli* with his Concentus Musicus Wien. Mariss Jansons will likewise honor the founding father of Viennese classicism in his two concerts, conducting the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in the Overture (Sinfonia) in D major and the late *Harmoniemesse*. He has also programmed the following works for Lucerne: Mozart's "Linz" Symphony, Tchaikovsky's Fourth, Debussy's *Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune*, and Igor Stravinsky's sacred classic, the *Symphony of Psalms*. For the Jesuit Church, Andrew Parrott has selected the rarely performed *Stabat mater* that Haydn wrote for a Good Friday service in Eisenstadt.

But 2009 is also a "Handel Year," as it marks 250 years since this baroque genius from Halle died in London. Handel's final oratorio, the Biblical story of *Jephtha*, will resound with all the power and eloquence of a timeless human tragedy when David Stern and his Opera Fuoco present it in Lucerne's KKL Concert Hall.

*Kapitel Acht* ("Chapter Eight") by Alexander Knaifel offers an encounter of quite a different sort. Born in 1943, this Russian composer drew inspiration from the Biblical love poetry of *The Song of Songs* – this promises to be a special listening experience in the bright, resonant space of the Jesuit Church.

## Order Deadlines

Individual tickets have been available by mail or Internet since Monday, 17 November 2008

Telephone sales will begin on Monday, 9 February 2009, at +41 (0)41 226 44 80

Box office sales in Lucerne's KKL Concert Hall will begin on Thursday, 26 March 2009

ZÜRICH – Resident Sponsor of LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter 2009

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