

Press Release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer
10 August – 18 September 2011

Positive Results for the 73rd LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer with Its Theme of “Night”

Some 95,200 patrons attended this summer’s LUCERNE FESTIVAL, which offered a total of 114 artistic events. 72,500 music lovers attended 80 ticketed concert events, with the percentage of seats sold for these figuring at 87%. A total of 23 of the concerts were sold out, while 7 new works were premiered. Some 21,200 music enthusiasts attended the wide array of related events which were offered with no admission charge. Events presented in cooperation with the Museum of Art, the Südpol, and the Kleintheater, along with the Light Show held in front of the Luzerner Theater, attracted around 1,500 visitors.

A great diversity of concert formats, interviews, and other presentations probed the phenomenon of “Night.” These spanned a wide spectrum, from the opening keynote address given by Elisabeth Bronfen as well as large- and smaller-scale series focused on night music (including the series “From Night to Light” and “Insomnia”) to performance artist Charlotte Hug’s “Nachtplasmen” and the new String Quartet No. 3 -- performed in total darkness – and the opera “Night” by composer-in-residence Georg F. Haas. Closing the series of concerts, which extend over a five-and-a-half week period, will be the performance this Sunday, 18 September, of the first act from Wagner’s “Die Walküre” by the Staatskapelle Berlin under Daniel Barenboim, with soloists Nina Stemme, Peter Seiffert, and Kwanchul Youn.

Never before has the choice of programming been as comprehensive and multifaceted as that on offer throughout this year’s Summer Festival. In comparison with the previous summer, there were an additional 18 concerts, as well as a notable expansion of the related side programs. Launching the latter was the Festival for Lucerne, while YOUNG, a new addition to the Festival, produced 18 events for children and youths; meanwhile, students of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY were featured in eight programs planned and hosted by themselves as part of the “Spotlights” and “Open-Stage” series.

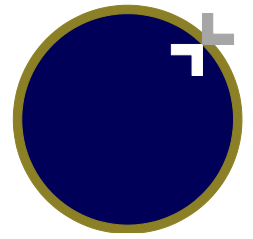
“The artistic results have had a clearly positive outcome, and we are pleased that despite the difficult economic situation we were able to welcome just as many concert patrons as in the summer of 2010,” summed up Michael Haefliger, Artistic and Executive Director of LUCERNE FESTIVAL. “Even so, with 80 events on offer, we have reached our maximum extent. Considering the economic outlook and the fact that we ourselves must finance 97% of our budget, we are considering possible ways of focusing and thoughtfully cutting back our programming. There will be no impact on our commitment to the highest standards of quality in selecting artists, on our support of contemporary music, or on our role in continuing to nurture young talent,” Haefliger clarified.

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The 35 symphony concerts presented in the course of the Summer Festival – including three by the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY – had an average booking of 91%. The rates for other categories were as follows: 79% for the seven chamber music concerts; 83% for the two recitals in the “Pollini Perspectives” series; 70% for the eight contemporary-music events; 80% for the “Insomnia” series; and 87% for the nine Debut concerts. Especially noteworthy were the responses to our new YOUNG programs, with an occupancy of 98.5%, and to the performances by Charlotte Hug in the Museum of Art, with a rate of 77%.

The appealing series of admission-free related events, some of which took place as part of the “Festival for Lucerne,” met with an enthusiastic reception by a total of 21,200 attendees. The breakdown includes some 15,000 guests for the Street Music Festival; 1,455 for the children’s programs with free admission; a total of 1,745 for the Forum, Spotlights, Open-Stage, and Master Class in Conducting – all events which were sponsored by the ACADEMY; about 1,000 for the concert broadcast on the Inseli; 362 for the stattkino; 408 for interviews with the artists; and 1,230 for the six guest performances on the Buvette.

Radio station DRS 2 recorded 33 concerts, six of which were broadcast live with a subsequent round table discussion by critics. Accentus Music recorded two symphonic concerts in co-production with SF 1 and ZDF/ARTE or ARTE.

Guest Appearances by the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA in October 2011

In the fall of 2011, as part of this year’s tour, Claudio Abbado and the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA will perform in Baden-Baden, Paris, and London.

Just as they did in Lucerne, their programs in the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus and the Salle Pleyel in Paris will feature Bruckner’s Symphony No. 5 and Mozart’s “Haffner” Symphony. Additionally, at the Southbank Center in London, soloists from the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA will play a concert of works by Strauss, Schoenberg, and Brahms, along with Schumann’s Piano Concerto with pianist Mitsuko Uchida as soloist.

Founded in Lucerne in 2003 by Claudio Abbado and Artistic and Executive Director Michael Haefliger, the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA has previously given acclaimed guest performances in Rome (2005), in Tokyo (2006), at the BBC Proms and in New York (2007), in Vienna (2008), in Beijing (2009), and in Madrid and Paris (2010).

The LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY is going on tour once again in 2011. This year will take them to Milan, Turin, Paris, Amsterdam, Munich, and London. Joining together with members of the Ensemble intercontemporain and Canadian soprano Barbara Hannigan, the Academy musicians will perform Pierre Boulez’s great musical homage to Mallarmé, “Pli selon pli”—which, naturally, will be conducted by the composer himself.

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