

Press Release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL at the Piano
21 – 27 November 2011

The focus of our late-fall Piano Festival will be Franz Liszt, the 200th anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated in 2011. Not only will the “Transcendental Etudes,” the First Piano Concerto, and the notoriously macabre “Totentanz” be heard, but Liszt’s richly imaginative transcriptions and his “Années de Pèlerinage” will also feature on programs spotlighting a wide variety of such keyboard artists as Yefim Bronfman, Andreas Haefliger, Lise de la Salle, and Alexei Volodin. Marc-André Hamelin, Maurizio Pollini, and Yuja Wang have been invited to give recitals as well. And Hélène Grimaud will join with the Festival Strings Lucerne to perform piano concertos by Mozart. Additionally, the Festival will include the Debut series of concerts, a Late Night, and Piano Off-Stage, our “festival within the festival” which allows you to enjoy late-night performances of the finest jazz.

Piano Concerts and Recitals

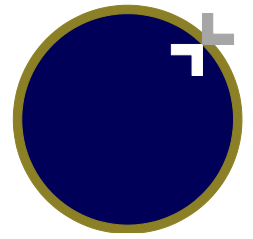
Alfred Brendel, one of the most significant Liszt interpreters of the recent past, will appear as the keynote speaker to open the Liszt cycle in Lucerne with a deeply personal homage to the composer. Continuing the theme, **Yefim Bronfman**, well-known to Lucerne audiences for his appearances as our “artiste étoile” in the summer of 2009, will perform three of the “Transcendental Études” as part of the **opening concert on 21 November**. Mere virtuosity is likewise hardly enough to do justice to the sonatas of Brahms and Prokofiev which Bronfman has chosen to frame his recital. The second recital, on **23 November**, brings us **Yuja Wang**, the young virtuoso who performed with Claudio Abbado to open the Summer Festival in 2009. Wang is the latest extraordinary pianist to emerge from China. But she is not content merely with mastering remarkable technical challenges: The works she has selected for her Lucerne recital, featuring composers from Brahms to Ravel, call for her utmost versatility as a performer. On **24 November**, **Andreas Haefliger** will draw on the full range of his talent to play the Swiss volume of Franz Liszt’s “Années de Pèlerinage,” after which he has programmed a piece that is no less formidably challenging: Franz Schubert’s Sonata in G major. Meanwhile, **Hélène Grimaud** describes her recent re-encounter with Mozart, a composer she played often in her youth but who was subsequently absent from her repertoire for many years, as greatly enriching. Joining with the **Festival Strings Lucerne** on **25 November**, she will perform two concertos by Mozart. For her recital on **26 November**, the young French master pianist **Lise de la Salle** has planned a diverse all-Liszt recital. Liszt knew how to stir his audiences into a frenzy through his diabolical virtuosity, and Russian pianist **Alexei Volodin** is in a good position to imitate that effect when he appears with the **Southwest German Radio Symphony Orchestra** on **26 November** to perform Liszt’s First Piano Concerto and “Totentanz.” The **Late Night concert on 26 November** with **Steamboat Switzerland** – comprising **Dominik Blum** on Hammond organ, **Marino Pliakas**, and **Lucas Niggli** – will present a brand-new work by Michael Wertmüller commissioned by LUCERNE FESTIVAL. On **27 November** Canadian pianist **Marc-André Hamelin** will take on the role of poet at the piano in works by Schumann and Fauré but also leaves room for Haydn’s enigmatic keyboard games and

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Stefan Wolpe's rarely heard Passacaglia. The Festival at the Piano will culminate with the work that represents the pinnacle of Liszt's immense pianistic cosmos: the Sonata in B minor. For the Festival's conclusion and high point on **27 November**, the great **Maurizio Pollini** will explore all facets of this monumental work.

Debuts

LUCERNE FESTIVAL at the Piano has been introducing talented young artists in recitals at the Lukaskirche for half a decade now. In 2011 the lineup will include **Francesco Piemontesi**, **Bertrand Chamayo**, and **Khatia Buniatishvili**. Ticino native Francesco Piemontesi, named a New Generation Artist by the BBC in 2009, launches the Debut series with music by Mozart, Chopin, Debussy, Lachenmann, and Schubert. His French colleague Bertrand Chamayou will play pieces by César Franck and Liszt, and Georgian pianist Khatia Buniatishvili has selected a diverse repertoire ranging from Bach to Boulez to perform.

Piano Lectures

On **26 November**, in the KKL Luzern auditorium, Martin Meyer, who serves as features editor of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," will give a lecture about Liszt examining how performers have contributed to our understanding of his work. In the second part of this year's Piano Lectures, Meyer will mark the occasion of Martha Argerich's 70th birthday (celebrated this past June) by taking a closer look at the pianist's signature artistry with the help of audio and video recordings.

Piano Off-Stage

Late-night piano jazz has become a tradition at LUCERNE FESTIVAL at the Piano. Once again, this year's Off-Stage series presents ten internationally acclaimed jazz pianists who will demonstrate the art of improvisation throughout Lucerne's finest bars. Over the course of five Off-Stage evenings you can enjoy performances by **Ehud Asherie**, **Julien Brunetaud**, **Claude Diallo**, **Chris Hopkins**, **Yelena Jurayeva**, **Dado Moroni**, **Frank Muschalle**, **Ayako Shirasaki**, **Rossano Sportiello**, and **Alkis Steriopoulos**. They will appear at such venues as the Hotel Des Balances, the Montana, the National, the Palace, the Radisson Blu, the Schweizerhof, the Seeburg, The Hotel, and the Wilden Mann, as well as at the Seebur and in the lounge of the KKL Luzern. And on **Tuesday, 22 November**, all of the artists will be on hand for the **opening event** in Luzerner Saal at the KKL Luzern. Moderating the evening will be DRS2 radio host Andreas Müller-Crepon.

The Bank Julius Bär is chief sponsor of LUCERNE FESTIVAL at the Piano.
LUCERNE FESTIVAL is a member of Top Events of Switzerland.

Ticket Sales

- Online sales begin Wednesday, 28 September 2011, at 12:00 noon at www.lucernefestival.ch
- Written ticket requests can be faxed starting Wednesday, 28 September 2011 (Fax +41 (0)41 226 44 85)
- Telephone sales begin Wednesday, 5 October 2011 at +41 (041) 226 44 80
- Tickets can be purchased directly at the box office starting Monday, 21 November 2011 in the KKL Luzern

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