



Media Release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer 2009

12 August - 19 September 2009

Positive final figures for the 71st LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer with its theme "Nature"

(Figures projected as of 15 September 2009)

A total of 100,000 visitors came to the many events of this summer's LUCERNE FESTIVAL. Sixty-seven concerts were attended by some 72,000 music lovers, amounting to a 91-percent booking rate. Twenty-seven concerts were sold out. Some 28,000 music devotees attended the wide-ranging side events. Of the eleven world premières, nine were initiated by the Festival itself.

With some 100,000 visitors attending sixty-seven performances, a booking rate of 91 percent, and twenty-seven sold-out concerts, LUCERNE FESTIVAL was able to thwart the current economic downturn and follow up on the outstanding results of the preceding summer, when it boasted a 93-percent booking rate for a total of seventy-three performances.

With 28,000 visitors, the side events proved as popular as ever. The Street Music Festival, for example, had some 16,000 visitors. The Nox Borealis video installation booked 4,000 visitors, the ACADEMY forums 1,300, the Children's Corner 4,500, the Stattkino 500, and the Meet-the-Artist talks 800. The big-screen projection on the Inseli was witnessed by some 1,000 spectators in glorious weather.

"Like a cry of Nature": thus the expression mark prefixed to Gustav Mahler's First Symphony. Claudio Abbado and his LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA opened the Festival with this work, along with Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto played by Yuja Wang. Once again they held the audience spellbound in the Salle Blanche of Lucerne's KKL Culture and Congress Center. Equally spellbound were the 1,000 spectators who watched the concert on a large projection screen on the Inseli. The first public "sound performance" in front of the KKL was also rousingly received by the townspeople. The opening concert was broadcast live on DRS 2 in Switzerland and WQXR in the United States. SF 1 broadcast Prokofiev's Third Concerto, and the opening concert has been accessed 44,000 times to date on medici.tv.

The Festival's thirty-three symphony concerts had an average booking rate of 93 percent, with another 82 percent for the three early music concerts and 76 percent for the chamber music recitals. The chamber orchestra concert (conducted by Pierre Boulez) was sold out, as was the concert by Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble and six of the nine début recitals.

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The concerts in the Modern series are solidly established and increasingly popular. Modern 4, with Pierre Boulez's legendary *Répons*, was sold out, and the average booking rate for all nine Modern concerts ran to 76 percent. LUCERNE FESTIVAL commissioned nine new works and put eleven world premières and two Swiss premières on its programs.

ARTE and arte.tv broadcast the symphony concert of 22 August, and Switzerland's DRS radio corporation recorded twenty-seven concerts. The New York station WQXR broadcast five concerts in the United States.

Reports on the 2009 LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer were submitted by 220 journalists, including representatives from such leading foreign media as the *New York Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Financial Times*, *Musical America*, *Le Figaro*, *The Times*, *Guardian*, *El País*, *Corriere della Sera*, *La Repubblica*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Die Welt*, *Die Presse*, *Standard*, ORF, and many others.

Residency in the Middle Kingdom
LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Beijing
20 - 25 September 2009

In a couple of days Claudio Abbado and the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA will set out on a tour to Beijing. The new National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), which opened its doors in December 2007, will host no fewer than six concerts by these musicians.

As in Lucerne, the focus of the two orchestral concerts will fall on Gustav Mahler and his First and Fourth Symphonies, conducted by Claudio Abbado. Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto will feature the young Chinese pianist Yuja Wang, while the soprano Rachel Harnisch will début in Mahler's Fourth and Mozart arias.

The Mahler Chamber Orchestra will appear under the baton of Tan Dun, a Chinese composer-conductor who straddles the boundary between East and West. The residency's opening event will be a chamber music matinée featuring soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra.

Founded in Lucerne in 2003 by Claudio Abbado and festival director Michael Haefliger, the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA has already presented highly acclaimed residencies in Rome (2005), Tokyo (2006), the BBC Proms and New York (both 2007), and Vienna (2008).

LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter
19 - 28 March 2010

The King's Consort will present the *ne plus ultra* of pre-Easter classics, Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, while Nikolaus Harnoncourt and the Concentus Musicus will offer, among other things, a reading of Ludwig van Beethoven's rarely heard Passion oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives*. This year the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra will devote itself to Bruckner, conducted by Bernard Haitink and Daniel Harding. Listening thrills can be expected from a guest appearance by the Sinfónica de la Juventud Venezolana, headed by Gustavo Dudamel and, for the first time in Lucerne, Claudio Abbado. Once again Cecilia Bartoli will delight her Lucerne audience with eighteenth-century Italian arias.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer: 12 August - 18 September 2010

The theme of next year's Summer Festival is Eros, the Greek god of love who conquers all human hearts and subdues the powers of reason. Though Eros will inspire the Festival's program, it would be wrong to reduce the power of the cosmos to love alone. Even Plato viewed the principle of Eros in a far more general sense as the urge of every mortal to achieve immortality and to escape from the sensory faculties to the mind – and thus to knowledge. Accordingly, Sigmund Freud called "Eros" the vital drive *per se*.

In short, the Festival will approach this many-layered theme from different angles. The main focus will fall on three famous pairs of lovers from cultural history: Tristan and Isolde, Romeo and Juliet, and Pelléas and Mélisande, whose paths will be retraced in the opera house and concert hall.

Claudio Abbado and his LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA will open the season. The Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics will come to Lucerne, as will the Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the Bolshoy Orchestra, and the Tonhalle Orchestra. With them will come Pierre Boulez, Simon Rattle, Michael Tilson Thomas, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gustavo Dudamel, and David Zinman. Standing in the limelight of next year's summer concerts will be our *artiste étoile*, the French pianist Hélène Grimaud, and our Swiss composer-in-residence Dieter Ammann.