



Media Release

LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter 2010 19 – 28 March 2010

For the first time ever the Easter Festival will be opened by Claudio Abbado. He will conduct the Sinfónica de la Juventud Venezolana, which will appear in three more concerts (one of which is a family concert) under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel, Diego Matheuz and Christian Vasquez. From 19 to 28 March LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter will present music for Holy Week and secular works from the Baroque era to the present day. Christ's Passion will be commemorated in two versions: Bach's shattering *St Matthew Passion*, performed by The King's Consort, and Beethoven's *Christ on the Mount of Olives*, presented by Nikolaus Harnoncourt and his Concentus Musicus. For the first time this pre-Easter festival will be opened by Claudio Abbado. He will conduct the Sinfónica de la Juventud Venezolana, a superb youth orchestra which can be heard on two further evenings under Gustavo Dudamel and Diego Matheuz. Once again Festival visitors can welcome Cecilia Bartoli. The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra will provide a grand finale as Bernard Haitink and Daniel Harding conduct Bruckner and Beethoven.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter 2010 will begin with a flourish as Claudio Abbado conducts the opening concert. He will present a largely Russian programme together with the Sinfónica de la Juventud Venezolana, an orchestra made up of the very best pupils from 'El Sistema'. The evening will get off to a highly virtuosic start with Prokofiev's *Scythian Suite* and end with Tchaikovsky's autobiographical *Pathétique*, following a side trip to the world of Berg's *Lulu* (with Anna Prohaska as soloist). The Venezuelan orchestra will also perform on 20 March under its director Gustavo Dudamel and on 22 March under Diego Matheuz. The programmes feature works by Tchaikovsky and Richard Strauss (20 March) and Beethoven and Shostakovich (22 March). On 21 March 26-year-old Christian Vasquez will conduct a family concert featuring spirited and rhythmical works for young and old (free admission for ages 18 and under).

The Passion of Christ will be commemorated twice. In the first choral concert Nikolaus Harnoncourt and the Concentus Musicus Wien will offer a rarely heard rendition of the story: Ludwig van Beethoven's oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives* (21 March). The King's Consort will then present the *ne plus ultra* masterpiece of the Easter season: Johann Sebastian Bach's *St Matthew Passion* (25 March). The third choral concert, on 26 March, will feature two works by the Swiss composers Jean-Luc Darbellay (1946-) and Arthur Honegger.

'Sacrificium – La scuola dei castrati': thus the title of the recital that Cecilia Bartoli will give on 24 March. On this evening the mezzo-soprano will sing castrato arias from 18th-century Italy that she unearthed during many hours of archival research. She will thus offer a rare glimpse into a dark yet fascinating side of music history that has been at best haphazardly explored to date. More early music can be heard on 23 March from the Freiburg BarockConsort with an exciting programme for explorers and curiosity-seekers:

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works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Philipp Telemann, Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, and Johann Pachelbel's Canon and Gigue.

The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra will be our guest on two evenings. On 27 March Bernard Haitink will probe the mystic depths of Bruckner's Fifth Symphony, while Daniel Harding will conduct Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge* and Bruckner's *F-minor Mass* on 28 March. The Bavarian RSO is a Bruckner orchestra *par excellence* that has excelled in path-breaking performances of this composer ever since its foundation 60 years ago.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL will screen the prize-winning film 'El Sistema' in conjunction with Lucerne's Stattkino. This documentary film by Paul Smaczny and Maria Stodtmeier recounts the history of the 'Sistema', a network of children's and youth orchestras established in Venezuela by José Antonio Abreu (Stattkino, 18-24 March). A meet-the-artist talk with Paul Smaczny will follow the Sunday afternoon screening.

Zürich is the Resident Sponsor of LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter 2010.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL is a member of the Top Events of Switzerland.

Ticket Sales

- Online direct bookings will begin at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, 2 December 2009, at www.lucernefestival.ch
- Orders in writing will be accepted as of Wednesday, 2 December 2009 (fax: +41(0)41 226 44 85)
- Orders by telephone will be accepted as of Monday, 25 January 2010, at +41(0)41 226 44 80 (10:00 am to 5:00 pm)
- Box office sales will begin on Wednesday, 17 March 2010 (10:00 am to 6:00 pm)