



Lucerne, 20 May 2009

Media release

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

Beijing is the destination of the tour Claudio Abbado and the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA will undertake in September 2009. The new National Centre for the Performance Arts (NCPA), which opened its doors in December 2007, will host no fewer than six concerts by these sterling musicians.

As at this year's summer festival 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 delight listeners 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 matinee 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).

On 20 May the new residency was announced at a press conference in Beijing's NCPA. Among the speakers were Chen Zuohuang, the NCPA's artistic director and co-presenter; Masahide Kajimoto, chairman of KAJIMOTO and co-presenter; and Michael Haefliger, artistic and executive director of LUCERNE FESTIVAL.

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