



## Media Release

### Lucerne Festival at the Piano 2009

23 - 29 November 2009

Three generations of master pianists will celebrate the fine art of pianism at this year's Lucerne Festival at the Piano. Murray Perahia and Emanuel Ax will play concertos by Mozart and Chopin respectively. We will again welcome Elisabeth Leonskaja, who will present a recital entirely dedicated to Chopin. Markus Hinterhäuser will play the breathtaking sonatas by Russian composer Galina Ustvol'skaya; Fazıl Say, Konstantin Scherbakov and Bernd Glemser will offer highly virtuosic and thought-provoking recitals, whereas Maurizio Pollini and Hélène Grimaud will present a grand finale on the final weekend.

#### Piano Concerts and Recitals

The Festival will open on 23 November with Murray Perahia playing concertos by Mozart and Johann Sebastian Bach with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields under the baton of Kenneth Sillito. The first recital will be given by Fazıl Say, who will play works by Bach, Beethoven and Janáček on 25 November. Chopin's Second Piano Concerto will be performed by the masterly American pianist Emanuel Ax in a guest appearance with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe on 26 November. Another unforgettable moment awaits audiences on 27 November, when Elisabeth Leonskaja will give a recital focusing on works by Chopin. The twentieth anniversary of the death of Vladimir Horowitz, who passed away in New York on 5 November 1989, will be honored in a matinee recital by Konstantin Scherbakov, who will play several Horowitz "showpieces": sonatas by Scarlatti and Scriabin, piano pieces by Liszt, and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* arranged by Horowitz himself. Pensiveness and virtuosity will clash on 28 November when Maurizio Pollini will play Beethoven's "Tempest" and "Appassionata" sonatas, rounded off with Chopin's Four Mazurkas (op. 33) and the Second Scherzo. Markus Hinterhäuser, concert master of the Salzburger Festspiele, will come to Lucerne for an evening of modernism on 28 November, when he will perform all six sonatas by the Russian composer Galina Ustvol'skaya, who died three years ago. Bernd Glemser will give his Lucerne début on 29 November with a dual portrait in which Felix Mendelssohn (b. 1809) meets his younger contemporary Frédéric Chopin (b. 1810), whose bicentennial will be celebrated next year. And Hélène Grimaud will probe the musical cosmos of Johann Sebastian Bach, with a brief side trip to Beethoven, in the final recital on 29 November.

#### Débuts

For the third time the Piano Festival's Début series will take place in the Church of St. Luke. Herbert Schuch, Cédric Pescia and Kristian Bezuidenhout are the three young pianists who will introduce themselves this year. Herbert Schuch will open the series on 25 November with works by Lachenmann, Schubert, Schumann and Holliger. Cédric Pescia, who was born in Lausanne, will devote himself to C. P. E. Bach, Messiaen, Beethoven and Schumann on 26 November, while Kristian Bezuidenhout will present Mozart on an historical fortepiano on 27 November.

#### Contact

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### **Workshop**

On 28 November Martin Meyer, editor of the arts page of the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, will hold forth on the "Splendors of Late Romanticism" in the auditorium of Lucerne's KKL Culture and Congress Center, leading us on a journey through the rich and expressive universe of the late-romantic piano repertoire. A second part of the workshop will focus on Schubert. Together with András Schiff, one of the outstanding Schubert pianists of our age, Meyer will use live examples to illuminate Schubert's music and its performance.

### **Piano Off-Stage**

The seventh Piano Off-Stage festival will allow ten renowned jazz pianists to flaunt their skills between 24 and 29 November in Lucerne's loveliest restaurants and cocktail lounges. Be it swing or mainstream, blues or soul, every taste will be satisfied. The opening event will take place in Lucerne Hall of the KKL Culture and Congress Center at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 24 November. This and all other events in the Off-Stage festival are free of charge. Mya Audrey, Iluís Coloma, Yelena Jurayeva, Robert Lakatos, Andrea Pozza, Dirk Raufeisen, Buddha Scheidegger, Johnny Varro, Thila Wagner and Stewy von Wattenwyl will appear in the following venues: Grand Hotel National, Hotel des Balances, Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern, Hotel Seeburg Luzern, Palace Luzern, Radisson SAS Hotel, Romantik Hotel Wilden Mann, Seebär - KKL Luzern, Seehotel Hermitage Luzern and The Hotel.

Julius Bär Bank is principal sponsor of LUCERNE FESTIVAL at the Piano 2009.

Piano Off-Stage is supported by Hans-Joachim & Edith Seifert (St. Gallen) and Mövenpick.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL is a member of Top Events of Switzerland

### **Ticket sales**

- Online bookings begin at 8:00 am on Tuesday, 22 September 2009, at [www.lucernefestival.ch](http://www.lucernefestival.ch)
- Orders in writing begin on 22 September 2009 by fax at +41 (0)41 226 44 85
- Orders by phone from Monday, 26 October, at +41 (0)41 226 44 80 between 10 am and 5 pm
- Box office sales begin on Monday, 23 November 2009