



## Press release

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Hubert Achermann, Chairman of the Board of LUCERNE FESTIVAL, announces that Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger's contract has been extended through the end of 2016.

Since the beginning of his tenure in 1999, Haefliger has profoundly enhanced the Festival's profile by establishing the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA – together with Claudio Abbado –and the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY, which is led by Pierre Boulez. Haefliger is equally recognized and known to audiences for his consistent programming and his advocacy of contemporary music.

Tours by the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA and the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY to the major European cities as well as to Japan and China have significantly increased international awareness of the Festival, such that the percentage of foreign visitors has expanded considerably: from 7% to 19%. During this time frame the Festival budget grew from CHF 14 million to CHF 26 million, while revenues from sponsors more than doubled, increasing from the previous figure of CHF 4 million to CHF 8.5 million.

The goal under Haefliger's directorship is to continue to develop the international presence of the Festival, to expand its programs for children and youths, and to strengthen its social commitment. In addition, the field of music theater is also expected to play an important role in the coming years. The Board looks forward to continuing this cooperative and successful partnership with Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger.

Lucerne, December 21<sup>st</sup> 2011

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