

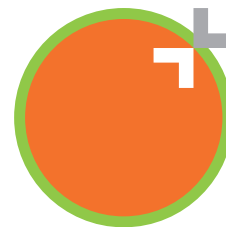
## Press Release

**LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter**  
**24 March – 1 April 2012**

**Claudio Abbado** will launch the upcoming Easter Festival with the **Orchestra Mozart** from Bologna, the most recent example of his gift for founding new orchestras. **Nikolaus Harnoncourt** will conduct early Handel and Bach's festive Magnificat, while **András Schiff** will ascend the heights with Bach's B minor Mass. The **King's Consort** will present an insightful pairing of two settings of the Requiem by Michael Haydn and Mozart, respectively, and **Mariss Jansons** brings to life the bold musical visions of Leoš Janáček. Still more musical revelations are in store as two exquisite early-music ensembles perform in the spiritually contemplative setting of the Franziskanerkirche: The **Hilliard Ensemble** will sing the rich vocal polyphony of **Tomás Luis de Victoria** and **Giovanni Pierluigi Palestrina**, while the **Concerto Melante** and French soprano **Sandrine Piau** will present sonatas, cantatas, and sacred concertos related to the famous theme from the Psalms, "Rejoice in the Lord." And in 2012 **Bernard Haitink** will once again transmit his wisdom to young, highly talented conductors – and to interested members of the public – in a master class.

**Claudio Abbado** and his **Orchestra Mozart**, which he founded in 2004, are breaking new ground with their performances of music by their namesake. Although they play on modern instruments, they incorporate aspects inspired by the historical performance movement. On **24 March** they will perform Mozart's "Linz" Symphony and his Violin Concerto in A major with soloist **Isabelle Faust**, as well as Schumann's Second Symphony. **Mariss Jansons** launches the Easter residency of the **Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Chorus** with three masterpieces from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their concert on **30 March** includes Beethoven's "Leonore" Overture No. 3, Bartók's First Violin Concerto with **Vilde Frang**, and one of the great symphonic cornerstones, Brahms's Fourth Symphony. On **1 April Bernard Haitink** and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra will close out the Easter Festival with the Fourth Symphony ("the "Romantic") by Bruckner. At the start of their program, Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires will perform Mozart's profoundly stirring D minor Concerto, K. 466.

The festival's series of four choral concerts will begin on **25 March** when **Nikolaus Harnoncourt**, together with the **Concentus Musicus Wien** and the **Arnold Schoenberg Chor**, explores Handel's early sojourn in Italy with a performance of three sacred works that the Protestant composer was commissioned to write for Catholic patrons while in Rome. These will be juxtaposed with Bach's glorious Magnificat. Two Requiems will be heard on **27 March**, as **Robert King** and his ensemble **The King's Consort** present a rare opportunity to compare and contrast settings of this liturgical text by Michael Haydn and Wolfgang Amadé Mozart alike. On **29 March**, with his **Cappella Andrea Barca**, **András Schiff** will take on the Mount Everest of the sacred music repertoire: the monumental B minor Mass, which represents the summa of Bach's entire artistic career. And the **Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Chorus** under **Mariss Jansons** will conclude the choral concerts on **31 March** with Leoš Janáček's "Glagolitic Mass," which Jansons will preface with one of the young Beethoven's true strokes of genius, his First Symphony. In a pre-concert event before the performance



of the “Glagolitic Mass,” youths will present compositions of their own, as prepared in workshop with musicians from the Bavarian Radio ensemble, which set their personal religious beliefs – or non-beliefs – to music.

The concert by the **Hilliard Ensemble** on **26 March** promises to transport us to a musical paradise. It will combine the plainchant of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century French setting of the Requiem with the vocal polyphony of Italian composer Pierluigi da Palestrina and the Spanish Tomás Luis de Victoria, which in turn sets various sections of the Latin Office for the Dead. Meanwhile, a new early-music ensemble that takes its name from Telemann’s pseudonym “Melante,” will make its first appearance in Lucerne on **28 March**. The Concerto **Melante** comprises members of the Berlin Philharmonic and well-known soloists from the baroque music scene. Joined by soprano **Sandrine Piau**, they will perform sonatas, cantatas, and sacred concertos from Georg Philipp Telemann to Johann Pachelbel.

The aim of the **Human Rights Orchestra**, which is made up of musicians from Europe’s leading ensembles, is to increase awareness among a wider public for issues of human rights as well as to support specific human rights projects through its performances. As part of the Easter Festival, members of the Orchestra will join with Swiss youths on **25 March** for a special concert under the direction of Alessio Allegrini, principal horn of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA. They will perform pieces by composers from Mozart to Nielsen and then team up with the young musicians to give the world premiere of two new works by Paolo Marzocchi which they will have rehearsed in a workshop with the Italian composer.

It was during last year’s LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter that **Bernard Haitink** launched his master class in conducting. And in 2012 the Dutch Maestro returns to share his wisdom and rich experience with young, highly gifted young musicians – and once again the general public has an opportunity to listen in on this exciting course. Together with the Festival Strings Lucerne, **from 28 to 30 March**, he will rehearse and discuss works by Beethoven, Schumann, Bruckner, and Ravel.

Zürich Insurance Company AG is Resident Sponsor of LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter  
LUCERNE FESTIVAL is a member of Top Events of Switzerland

## Ticket Sales

- Online beginning on Monday, 5 December 2011, at 12.00 noon at [www.lucernefestival.ch](http://www.lucernefestival.ch)
- By mail/fax beginning on Monday, 5 December 2011 (fax +41 (0)41 226 44 85)
- By telephone beginning on Monday, 12 December 2011 at: +41 (041) 226 44 80
- At the box office beginning on Saturday, 24 March 2012, in the KKL Lucerne

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