

SHEKU KANNEH-MASON

“artiste étoile” | 2024 Summer Festival



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The British cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, who was born in 1999, will appear as “artiste étoile” in the summer of 2024, performing two major solo concerts and two chamber music projects. On 23 August, he will play Dvořák’s famous Cello Concerto with Jakub Hrůša and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra; on the following day, he will perform works by Villa-Lobos, Gnattali, Brouwer, Arcaro, and Piazzolla in an unusual duo formation with the Brazilian guitarist Plínio Fernandes at a Late Night event at the Luzerner Theatre. A second chamber concert, this time with piano accompaniment, will take place on 31 August under the title “Bach & Beyond,” with a program ranging from Bach’s Cello Suites to jazz. Together with Paavo Järvi and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, he will conclude his residency on 11 September with Shostakovich’s First Cello Concerto. Kanneh-Mason last appeared at Lucerne Festival in the summer of 2022 at the closing concert with the Chineke! Orchestra

under the direction of Kevin John Edusei, and he performed for the first time in Lucerne as part of the Debut series in 2018 together with his sister, the pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason. She is making her solo debut at the Festival this summer.

In the current season, the cellist performed at the Last Night of the Proms 2023 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Marin Alsop. Further engagements in the 2023-24 season include a tour of Germany with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and guest appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, Orquesta Nacional de España, National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Oslo Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, and San Francisco Symphony. Joint recitals with his sister Isata have taken him to Europe and Asia, and he has performed numerous solo recitals in the USA and Canada. Since his debut at the BBC Proms in 2017, Kanneh-Mason has been a guest there every summer. His performance at the wedding of the British Prince Harry to Meghan Markle in 2018 made him known to an audience of billions via television broadcast.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason began taking cello lessons at the age of six and was accepted to the Royal Academy of Music in London at the age of nine, where he first studied in the Junior Department with Ben Davies and later with Hannah Roberts and was appointed the first Menuhin Visiting Professor of Performance Mentoring in 2022. Kanneh-Mason was the first Black musician ever to win the BBC Young Musician of the Year Award in 2016 and received the Royal Philharmonic Society’s Young Artists Award in 2020. Kanneh-Mason is a Decca Classics Exclusive Artist and is involved in numerous projects to make music accessible to all.

You can find a complete list of Sheku Kanneh-Mason’s concert dates in the Festival program on page 14 as well as online.

Photos may be downloaded at lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos

Contacts for Press and Public Relations

Nina Steinhart, Head of Public Relations | n.steinhart@lucernefestival.ch | T +41 (0)41 226 44 43

Sereina Kubli | s.kubli@lucernefestival.ch | T +41 (0)41 226 44 59

www.lucernefestival.ch