

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

2024 Summer Festival

Music Director Riccardo Chailly will present two programs, while Klaus Mäkelä will conduct the orchestra for the first time and Yannick Nézet-Séguin returns as guest conductor.

Appearing as soloists are the pianists Leif Ove Andsnes, Alexander Malofeev, and Beatrice Rana.

Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra continue their Rachmaninoff cycle.

This summer, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will continue the tradition of opening the Festival under the baton of its Music Director Riccardo Chailly. In keeping with the Festival theme of “Curiosity,” Gustav Mahler’s multi-layered Seventh Symphony, a work considered full of “enigmas,” is on the program for this concert on 16 August. Instead of a keynote speech, an ensemble from the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) will make a musical statement on the theme of “Curiosity” by playing a new work by composer-in-residence Lisa Streich. The Opening Concert, featuring more than 100 performers on the stage of the KKL Luzern, will once again be broadcast on the big screen in Lucerne’s Inseli Park as part of the “Lakeside Symphony” event.

Following his Festival debut last year, the 28-year-old Finn Klaus Mäkelä will return to the podium in Lucerne on 17 August to conduct the Lucerne Festival Orchestra for the first time. Mäkelä will be joined by the Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, who will perform the Piano Concerto by his compatriot Edvard Grieg. On the same evening, the orchestra will perform Mendelssohn’s *The Hebrides* Overture and Robert Schumann’s Second Symphony. Selected soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will perform a chamber music matinee on Sunday, 18 August, featuring works by Schneider, Schnittke, Zbinden, MacMillan, J. S. Bach, Vierne, and Mozart, while various formations from the orchestra will appear as part of the free 40min series in Lucerne Hall on Monday, 19 August.

On 20 August, Chailly and the orchestra will continue the Rachmaninoff cycle they launched in 2019. In his second symphony concert of the summer, Chailly will combine Rachmaninoff’s earliest compositions for orchestra, the Symphonic Movement in D minor and the First Piano Concerto, with his last work, the *Symphonic Dances*. The soloist will be the young Russian pianist Alexander Malofeev, who performed with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra on its tour to China in 2019 and who can be heard at Lucerne Festival for the first time this summer.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin will guest conduct the Lucerne Festival Orchestra for the third time. Following last year’s highly acclaimed performance of Bruckner’s Eighth Symphony, Nézet-Séguin will pay homage to the composer on his 200th birthday on 24 August with an account of the Seventh Symphony. Two days before that, he will introduce the work in a 40-minute program with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra titled “Curious about Bruckner?” and will offer an insight into the rehearsal process. Like most of Nézet-Séguin’s previous concerts at Lucerne Festival, this year’s program also includes the work of a female composer with Clara Schumann’s First Piano Concerto. The soloist will be the Italian Beatrice Rana, who performed with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra for the first time in the summer of 2023 under the direction of Andrés Orozco-Estrada.

In the last of its six concerts, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will break new ground by presenting a 45-minute program featuring one of the greatest “hits” from the Baroque era: the four violin concertos comprising Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*, which will be performed under the direction of its two concertmasters Gregory Ahss and Raphael Christ. They will also alternate between playing the solo parts: an event that is ideal for anyone who is curious about the world of classical music and who would like to “get a taste.”

About the Lucerne Festival Orchestra

With the founding of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, which was first introduced to the public in August 2003, conductor Claudio Abbado and Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger established a link with the tradition that launched Lucerne Festival in 1938, when Arturo Toscanini brought together acclaimed virtuosos of the time to form a one-of-a-kind, elite orchestra for a legendary “Concert de Gala.” Riccardo Chailly has helmed the orchestra since 2016. Since 2022, the orchestra has performed not only in summer but additionally as part of the Spring Festival in Lucerne. Outside the Festival season, the members of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra appear as soloists or in principal positions with renowned orchestras, including musicians who perform as part of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Filarmonica della Scala, or teach at music schools. Claudio Abbado was the orchestra’s Artistic Director until his death in January 2014. After a break from touring due to the pandemic, the orchestra will again travel abroad for the first time in five years in the fall of 2024, making two guest appearances: at the Philharmonie in Paris on 18 October and at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg on 19 October. The soloist will be the Swedish violinist Daniel Lozakovich, who will perform with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra for the first time at the 2024 Spring Festival.

You can find a complete list of all Lucerne Festival Orchestra performances on p. 8 of the Festival program as well as online.

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

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