

Media Release

Overall Results for Lucerne Festival: 70,000 concertgoers celebrate the 2022 “Summer of Diversity”

Lucerne, 9 September 2022. This Sunday evening, on 11 September, the 2022 Summer Festival comes to an end. Devoted to the theme of “Diversity”, the 35 days of the Summer Festival offered some 86 events that attracted a total of 70,000 concertgoers of all ages to the KKL Luzern, the Lukaskirche, and the Hochschule Luzern - Musik in Kriens. A total of 11,000 people attended the 17 free events, nine “40min” series events, the performances by world music groups as part of the “In the Streets” mini-festival, and the beloved “Lakeside Symphony” the live-streamed public viewing of Opening Night at Lucerne’s Inseli Park.

The 33 symphony concerts presented by the Festival reached 74% capacity this year; in addition, the programming offered four concerts featured international youth symphony orchestras. The events for children and young people proved to be particularly popular. In addition to the family concerts, five school performances as well as various school visits by world music groups and Debut artists were offered, with around 5,700 schoolchildren from the Lucerne region taking part.

“The enthusiasm that the audience attending our Summer Festival concerts showed after the coronavirus restrictions of recent years is overwhelming, although the numbers still indicate a coronavirus-related sense of caution”, remarked Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger. “After having to cancel almost everything in the summer of 2020 and after only being allowed to sell tickets to just more than half of the seats in 2021, we are now attaining a satisfactory overall occupancy rate of 72% in 2022 for the complete range of seating categories. We are on our way out of the pandemic and back to normality. It was nice to observe that very many concertgoers came to the box office to buy tickets spontaneously.”

The closing Festival weekend offers even more top-class concerts by an international array of orchestras and stars. Today, Friday, Franz Welser-Möst will conduct the Cleveland Orchestra, and Jakub Hrůša again returns to Lucerne tomorrow for an evening with the Bamberg Symphony featuring works by Gustav and Alma Mahler and Richard Wagner. On Sunday, the British Chineke! Orchestra, conducted by Kevin John Edusei and featuring the cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, will make a concluding musical statement on the theme of “Diversity”. The program includes Dmitri Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto No. 2 and William Levi Dawson’s powerful *African American Folk Symphony*.

The theme of “Diversity”, which was reflected in many ways by the programming of the five-week-long Summer Festival, inspired every generation of concertgoers. Numerous artists of color shaped the program. The Chineke! Junior Orchestra performed at the beginning of the Festival, while the “artistes étoiles” included the soprano Golda Schultz and the multi-instrumentalist and composer Tyshawn Sorey, who played a pivotal role in this year’s Academy. The young artists in the six Debut concerts at the Lukaskirche also had multi-ethnic backgrounds and presented works by Black composers. There was a focus on women, with eight female conductors and works by 24 female composers from the Romantic period to the present, including 16 Black women composers such as Florence Price, to whom the Swiss *Tagesschau* devoted a feature. The founder of the Chineke! Foundation Chi-chi Nwanoku gave the Festival’s opening address on 12 August on the theme of “Diversity,” and Anne-Sophie Mutter performed a violin concerto by Joseph Bologne, le Chevalier de Saint-Georges, with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. Alan Gilbert conducted a concert performance of *Porgy and Bess* with the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and the NDR Vokalensemble.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra presented a total of six concerts, the first two of which Music Director Riccardo Chailly conducted, while Jakub Hrůša stepped in at the very last minute for the third concert featuring works by Gustav Mahler; he also conducted a concert of Czech repertoire. Soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra performed with the pianist Kit Armstrong, and concertmaster Raphael Christ took over the musical direction for the ensemble's sixth program of the summer.

A total of 18 of the most internationally renowned symphony orchestras and star soloists could once again be experienced at Lake Lucerne this summer. The Cleveland Orchestra with Franz Welser-Möst and the Philadelphia Orchestra with Yannick Nézet-Séguin traveled from the USA, and the London Symphony Orchestra made a guest appearance with Sir Simon Rattle. The Berlin Philharmonic was conducted by Kirill Petrenko and Daniel Harding, the Vienna Philharmonic by Esa-Pekka Salonen, the Budapest Festival Orchestra by Iván Fischer, the Concertgebouw Orchestra by Philippe Herreweghe, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra by Daniel Barenboim, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra by Michael Sanderling, and the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra by Susanna Mälkki. Cecilia Bartoli performed with the Musiciens du Prince - Monaco and Jakub Hrůša led the Bamberg Symphony. The Mahler Chamber Orchestra made a guest appearance with Isabelle Faust and Antoine Tamestit. Before the official opening took place on 12 August, five youth orchestras performed as part of the "Music for Future" initiative, and the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, conducted by Oksana Lyniv, took a stand for solidarity with Ukraine on 8 August.

In addition to the "artistes étoiles" Golda Schultz and Tyshawn Sorey, there were numerous artistic highlights from other soloists, including Avi Avital, Lisa Batiashvili, Augustin Hadelich, Juan Diego Flórez, Sol Gabetta with Kristian Bezuidenhout, Lang Lang, Igor Levit, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Víkingur Ólafsson, Bertrand Chamayou, Tabea Zimmermann, Valentine Michaud, who won the 2020 Credit Suisse Young Artist Award, and the singers Angel Blue, Günther Groissböck, Camilla Nylund, André Schuen, and Klaus Florian Vogt.

The Lucerne Festival Academy, which once again took place over a period of three weeks, welcomed more than 90 young professional musicians and four Conducting Fellows from a total of 26 countries. Eight young composers — six women and two men — took part in the Composer Seminar led by the Academy's Artistic Director, Wolfgang Rihm, and Dieter Ammann. With Andreas Haefliger as the soloist, Ammann's piano concerto *Gran Toccata* was performed as part of the *räsonanz* - Donor Concert. Rihm's 70th and Ammann's 60th birthdays were celebrated on 3 September with a concert by the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) conducted by Sylvain Cambreling, in which the LFCO played Rihm's *Sub-Kontur*, among other works. On 4 September, the orchestra additionally gave a guest performance of this program at the Kölner Philharmonie. New productions by the troop "Die Schurken" and Taschenoper Lübeck were offered for children and families. The "In the Streets" festival from 23 to 28 August filled the city of Lucerne with music performed by six international musical groups.

Lucerne was also the platform for a total of 19 world premieres this summer. These were integrated into the programs of five "Contemporary" concerts, two symphony concerts, and three events in the Debut series. Among the premieres was *Air*, a composition for violin and orchestra by composer-in-residence Thomas Adès written for Anne-Sophie Mutter as part of the "Roche Commissions" series, as well as two works by this year's "artiste étoile" Tyshawn Sorey. The core of the "Contemporary" category was, as usual, the Lucerne Festival Academy with the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO). The category was additionally complemented this summer by the JACK Quartet, Quatuor Diotima, and ensemble recherche.

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The Festival's collaborations with the Luzerner Theater included Bartók's only opera, *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, and the music theater performance *STYX Tours: A Rendezvous with Death* was also presented.

A total of 90 journalists from Switzerland, Europe, the USA, and Asia visited the Summer Festival; in addition to *The New York Times*, there were reviewers from *Le Monde*, *El Pais*, *The Telegraph*, *Corriere della Sera*, *3sat Kulturzeit*, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, among others. The Opening Concert on 12 August was shown in a time-delayed broadcast on Swiss television SRF, arte.tv, mezzo.tv, and medici.tv. Radio SRF2 broadcast two concerts live and recorded ten concerts. The concert by the Bamberg Symphony with Jakub Hrůša will be livestreamed by medici.tv tomorrow, on 10 September.

Press photos are available at lucernefestival.ch/de/presse/fotos

Summer Festival

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