

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

PIANO FEST

09. – 12.05.2024

Igor Levit | Berliner Barock Solisten | Danger Dan |
Lukas Sternath | Johanna Summer

Program

Founding Partners

Berthold Herrmann &
Mariann Grawe-Gerber

THE HERO AT THE PIANO

When Igor Levit plays the piano, you sometimes think you are listening to an entire orchestra: the sound is so colorful and multi-faceted. That's why Levit is just the right person when it comes to translating orchestral works for the keyboard. At his inaugural Piano Fest in May 2023, he played the Adagio from Mahler's Tenth Symphony on the 88 black and white keys. This time, however, he will venture into a work long considered unplayable: Franz Liszt's adaptation of Beethoven's *Sinfonia eroica*. Liszt was, to be sure, a wizard at the keyboard whose devilish dexterity drove audiences out of their minds. But his transcriptions of Beethoven's symphonies are far more than virtuoso fodder: Liszt crafted ingenious recreations that, when necessary, reshape the original while at the same time presenting the essential matter. Levit will without doubt share new insights into Beethoven. At the beginning of his program, he will pay tribute to Johann Sebastian Bach with an account of the mighty *Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue*, which, for all its polyphonic artistry, sounds like an improvisation. This will lead directly to Fred Hersch, who also allows his thoughts to fly freely with his latest *Songs without Words*.



photo: Felix Broede

Thu 09.05.

Recital Igor Levit

18.30

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Igor Levit piano

Johann Sebastian Bach

Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue
in D minor, BWV 903

12 min

Fred Hersch

New Songs without Words

world premiere
commissioned by Lucerne Festival
20 min

Ludwig van Beethoven

Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55
Eroica

arranged for piano by Franz Liszt
55 min

Introduction to the Concert

17.30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium
with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

CHF 150/120/80/50/30

A STAR IS RISING

“What a blaze of color, what luminosity of tone,” marveled the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* when the Austrian Lukas Sternath, born in 2001, was introduced at the ARD International Music Competition in 2022, admiring the intensity and rhythmic incisiveness of his playing. Sternath not only received first prize but also won seven special prizes, including the audience trophy. Since then, his career has exploded: Sternath has debuted with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the SWR Symphony Orchestra, and the Munich Philharmonic and at the Vienna Philharmonic Summer Academy. This season, he will perform with the Bamberger Symphoniker, among others. And in 2024–25 he is scheduled to undertake a tour of the major concert halls of the continent as a “Rising Star” of the European Concert Hall Organization. Igor Levit will introduce his master student at the Piano Fest. Sternath will perform the first half of the concert alone, immersing himself in the dreamlike piano worlds of Franz Schubert. Following intermission, however, the two will play together and interpret music by Johannes Brahms as a duo: the popular *Haydn Variations* and the late Chorale Preludes, Op. 122, the last work by the composer.



photo: Thomas Rabsch

Fri 10.05.

Lukas Sternath & Igor Levit

19.30

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lukas Sternath piano

Igor Levit piano

Franz Schubert

Allegretto in C minor, D 915

6 min

Piano Sonata in C minor, D 958

33 min

Johannes Brahms

11 Chorale Preludes, Op. post. 122

arranged for piano four hands

25 min

Haydn Variations

for two pianos, Op. 56b

18 min

Introduction to the Concert

18.30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium

with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

CHF 120/100/80/50/30

BACH & BACH & BACH

Piano concertos by Johann Sebastian and his son Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach? Of course, neither composed for the modern concert grand piano as we know it today. Rather, the German term “clavier” at that time meant keyboard instruments of all kinds, from the harpsichord to the organ and from the clavichord to the spinet to the fortepiano, which appeared in the mid-18th century. Still, Father Bach may be considered the inventor of the piano concerto insofar as he established the model of a solo keyboard part in concertante dialogue with the orchestra. Igor Levit pairs Bach’s famous D minor Concerto, BWV 1052, which was first heard in a Leipzig coffee house in 1738, with Emanuel’s contribution to the genre in the same key, a work that foreshadows Mozart’s piano concertos. That both composers were themselves also celebrated virtuosos goes without saying. Levit will show how gripping and lively this early music can sound on a Steinway. And the Berliner Barock Solisten, who play on modern instruments but in an historically informed style, will introduce a third Bach: Wilhelm Friedemann, the eldest son of Johann Sebastian. A musical family reunion.

Sat 11.05.

Igor Levit & Berliner Barock Solisten

17.00

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Berliner Barock Solisten

Willi Zimmermann violin and
musical direction

Igor Levit piano

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach

Sinfonia in D major for strings and
basso continuo, BR-WFB C Inc. 1
9 min

Johann Sebastian Bach

Contrapunctus 1 and Fuga a 3 Soggetti
from *The Art of the Fugue*, BWV 1080

Chorale *Vor deinen Thron tret ich hiermit*
BWV 668
12 min

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

Piano Concerto in D minor, Wq 23
21 min

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (attributed)

Sinfonia in F major for strings and
basso continuo, Wq deest
8 min

Johann Sebastian Bach

Ricercar a 6 in C minor from
The Musical Offering, BWV 1079
7 min

Piano Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052
22 min

Introduction to the Concert

16.00 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium
with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

CHF 170/130/90/60/40

RAPPER AT THE KEYBOARD

Igor Levit and Danger Dan met in 2021 on *ZDF Magazin Royale*, a late-night show hosted by Jan Böhmermann. A year later, when Levit was awarded the Opus Klassik, Danger Dan gave the tribute speech, which caused quite a stir with a strongly worded critique of the New Right. Yet the rapper, a member of the hip-hop crew Antilopen Gang, has never minced his words. In his solo album *Das ist alles von der Kunstfreiheit gedeckt* ("It's All Covered by Artistic Freedom"), he also takes a stand: at the piano, accompanied only by a string quartet, he speaks out against anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, and conspiracy theories. And in the title song, which has received millions of clicks, he reflects on how such criticism can be voiced without facing immediate legal prosecution: "Report me, and I'll open a bottle of champagne, / It's all covered by artistic freedom." Igor Levit calls Danger Dan a "gifted, piano-playing storyteller. He has a clear compass of political values and unambiguously calls out abuses by their names. His songs touch and delight, they stir us up and also carry us through these unsettling times."



photo: Danny Kötter

Sat 11.05.

NO
PAUSE

Danger Dan

21.00

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Danger Dan voice and piano

"It's All Covered by Artistic Freedom"

75 min

This concert has no intermission.

CHF 90/60/30

FOR JAZZ AND CLASSICAL FANS

Her music is freely improvised like jazz but sounds more like classical music. Rather than take jazz standards as the starting point for her pianistic excursions, Johanna Summer draws on classical piano pieces by composers from Bach and Schubert to Scriabin and Ligeti, reimagining them in a remarkably inventive way. “I don’t play these pieces in the conventional sense – the way they were composed – but improvise with the material contained in them, trying to look at it from different perspectives,” is how the young German pianist explains her approach. Sometimes she “sinks her teeth” into particular motifs; at others she sets her own ideas as a counterpoint to the original. But whatever she does, it always results in something new and idiosyncratic: “Music that is stylistically located somewhere in between, drawing on classical music but in the spirit of jazz. Music that breaks free from the composition written down in a score as well as from conventional jazz harmonies,” as *Der Spiegel* remarks. “This woman is a giant!” enthuses Igor Levit. Following her inspiring performance at the inaugural Piano Fest, he immediately invited Johanna Summer back to Lucerne.



photo: Gregor Hohenberg

Sun 12.05.

NO
PAUSE

Recital Johanna Summer

11.00

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Johanna Summer piano

“Resonances II”

improvisations on Bach, Beethoven, Grieg,
Ravel & Co.

80 min

This concert has no intermission.

CHF 50

ALL-HANDS FINALE

To be honest: we can't tell you exactly what to expect here. Some of what transpires this afternoon won't become clear until just before the concert starts or even until the artists are onstage. And that is how it should be, since Igor Levit wants his Piano Fest to be more than a mere way station for stressed-out pianists. His guests will stay on site for a period of several days. They will meet up with and listen to each other and, ultimately, perform the festival finale together. Igor Levit himself will focus on the six late piano pieces, Op. 118, by Johannes Brahms. His master student Lukas Sternath, winner of the ARD Music Competition 2022, will follow in the footsteps of Franz Liszt, who transcribed several Schubert songs for piano. Also participating are members of the Berliner Barock Solisten, who take us back to another musical era. And Johanna Summer bridges the gap between classical music and jazz with her improvisations. Moreover, spontaneous constellations are sure to emerge, whether in virtuoso competition or in harmonious interplay. Let us be surprised!



photo: Felix Broede

Sun 12.05.

Closing Concert

17.00

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Igor Levit piano

Lukas Sternath piano

Johanna Summer piano

Members of Berliner Barock Solisten

Franz Schubert

Six Lieder as arranged for piano by
Franz Liszt:

Litanei, S 562, no. 1

Frühlingsglaube, S 558, no. 7

Auf dem Wasser zu singen, S 558, no. 2

Der Müller und der Bach, S 565, no. 2

Liebesbotschaft, S 560, no. 10

Die Stadt, S 560, no. 1

performed by Lukas Sternath

Johannes Brahms

Six Piano Pieces, Op. 118

performed by Igor Levit

and additional works

CHF 120/100/80/50/30

THANK YOU!

Without strong partners, great art would not be possible! We sincerely thank all those who support our Piano Fest for their generous commitment.

Founding Partners

Berthold Herrmann and Mariann Grawe-Gerber

Cooperation Partners

Canton of Lucerne | KKL Luzern, Event Partner | Luzern Tourismus | MetaDesign, Partner in Communication | Radio SRF Kultur, Media Partner



Lucerne Festival
is a member of



Official Rail Carrier



BOARDS

FOUNDATION LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Board of Trustees

Markus Hongler, Chairman*
Dr. Christian Casal, Treasurer*
Dr. Rolf Dörig*
Dr. Christoph Franz
Christian Gellerstad
Regula Gerber
Andrea Gmür-Schönenberger
Dr. Armin Hartmann
Dr. Christian Keller
Walter B. Kielholz*
Dr. Hariolf Kottmann

Michel M. Liès
Giovanna Maag
Anne-Sophie Mutter
Prof. Klaus Schwab
Anne Schwöbel*
Isabelle Welton*
Beat Züsli

* committee member

Honorary Chairman
Jürg R. Reinshagen

FOUNDATION LUCERNE FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Board of Trustees

Markus Hongler, Chairman
Dr. Christian Casal, Treasurer
Dr. Franz Egle
Andrea Gmür-Schönenberger
Elisabeth Oltramare

EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Michael Haefliger

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Michael Haefliger
Danièle Gross
Christiane Weber

LUCERNE FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Support Lucerne Festival and enjoy many benefits:

- priority booking
- invitations to Friends events including rehearsals, meetings with artists, and concert introductions
- access to the Friends Lounge during the Summer Festival
- organized Friends trips featuring an exclusive cultural program

Become part of our international patrons' community of music enthusiasts.
We look forward to meeting you!

Please contact us for more information

Isabelle Köhler

t +41 (0)41 226 44 52

friends@lucernefestival.ch

lucernefestival.ch/en/friends

YOUNG FRIENDS

Join us up to age 35!



Artist Talk: Anne-Sophie Mutter und Susame Stähr

TICKETING INFORMATION

Online ticket sales begin on 14 November 2023, 12.00 noon (Swiss time)

Mail sales begin on 15 November 2023

Telephone sales begin on 15 November 2023

Mon – Fri from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon (Swiss time)

also from 2.00 to 4.00 pm between 15 and 19 November 2023

during our festivals always from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon (Swiss time) and from 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Ticket sales at the Lucerne Festival ticket window Tickets will be available for purchase at the Lucerne Festival ticket window near the main entrance of the KKL Luzern (on the lakeside) between 9 – 12 May 2024, daily from 2.00 pm until the evening's concert begins.

The Festival Package for Piano Fans If you purchase tickets to all three events of the 2024 Piano Fest that are listed in the Festival Package by 29 February 2024, you will receive a 5% discount compared to the price for a single ticket in the categories 1–3.

Please see the General Terms and Conditions of Lucerne Festival at lucernefestival.ch/en/aggb.

Sales & Visitor Services

Lucerne Festival | P.O. Box | CH-6002 Luzern

t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | ticketbox@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch/en

Publisher Foundation Lucerne Festival | Executive and Artistic Director: Michael Haefliger
Hirschmattstrasse 13 | P.O. Box | CH-6002 Luzern
t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | info@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch/en

Editing and Content Malte Lohmann, Susanne Stähr

English-Language Editor and Translator Thomas May

Proofreading Antje Reineke

Layout and Realization Denise Fankhauser

Printing Engelberger Druck AG, Stans

Photos Thomas Rabsch (cover) – Priska Ketterer/Lucerne Festival (Friends)

This program was published in November 2023 and is subject to alteration without prior notice.
Printed prices are subject to correction.



LUCERNE FESTIVAL

TICKET ORDER FORM

Piano Fest | 09 - 12 May 2024

Online ticket sales begin on 14 November 2023, 12.00 noon (Swiss time)

Mail and telephone sales begin on 15 November 2023

	Time/Venue	Event	No. of tickets	Ticket price	Total
Thu 09.05.	18.30 KS	Recital Igor Levit			
Fri 10.05.	19.30 KS	Lukas Sternath & Igor Levit			
Sat 11.05.	17.00 KS	Igor Levit & Berliner Barock Solisten			
Sat 11.05.	21.00 KS	Danger Dan			
Sun 12.05.	11.00 KS	Recital Johanna Summer			
Sun 12.05.	17.00 KS	Closing Concert			
Processing fee					CHF 10
Total amount CHF					

☐ **The Festival Package for Piano Fans**

If you purchase tickets to the events on 9, 10, and 11 May (17.00 pm) at our 2024 Piano Fest by 29 February 2024, you will receive a 5% discount compared to the price for a single ticket in the categories 1-3.

Number of Festival packages: _____

Category (Each order has a processing fee of CHF 10.):

1 CHF 418 ☐ **2** CHF 333 ☐ **3** CHF 238 ☐

Second choice (please check)

If no other seat is available, I would like to choose the

☐ next highest category. ☐ next lowest category.

Customer Information

Last name/First name

Street address

Postal code/City/Country

Telephone

E-mail

Date

Signature

Invoice

We will send you an invoice indicating the amount due plus a processing fee of CHF 10. If you prefer to pay the amount by credit card, please notify us by phone after receiving the invoice at +41 (0)41 226 44 00. Unfortunately, due to reasons of data protection, we cannot accept credit card details in writing.

Lucerne Festival

Sales & Visitor Services | P.O. Box | CH-6002 Luzern

t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | ticketbox@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch/en