

Media Release

Lucerne Festival Ark Nova Opens – A One-of-a-Kind Concert Hall in Lucerne

Lucerne, 4 September 2025. Starting today, Lucerne Festival Ark Nova has officially opened on the Lidowiese and welcomes the public to experience its unique space. Guests from the worlds of culture, politics, and business gathered yesterday for a special pre-opening to celebrate the arrival of the world's first mobile, inflatable concert hall in Lucerne. Festival Director Michael Haefliger, Martin Bütikofer (Director of the Swiss Museum of Transport), and project partners UBS and Zurich formally inaugurated the "New Ark." The musical festivities were launched by horn player Sarah Willis together with her energetic Cuban ensemble Sarahbanda.

The Ark Nova, a walk-in artwork by Arata Isozaki and Sir Anish Kapoor, was created in response to the 2011 earthquake in Japan and symbolizes hope, resilience, and the unifying power of music. Having made four stops in Japan in its history to date, the Ark is now making its one-time appearance in Lucerne.

From 4-14 September 2025, the Ark Nova will host 35 short concerts ranging from classical to pop and featuring international stars, local ensembles, and community performances. Guided tours and a special exhibition at the Hans Erni Museum round out the program. While most events are already sold out, a limited number of tickets are still available.

"The opening of the Ark Nova in Lucerne marks a milestone – a symbol of the power of culture to bring people together and inspire hope," says Michael Haefliger, Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival.

Press photos may be downloaded from lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos

- from the Pre-Opening (3 September 2025)
- Architectural photos of the Ark Nova on the Lidowiese in Lucerne

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