

A conductor in a tuxedo is leading an orchestra on stage. The conductor is in the foreground, holding a baton and looking towards the musicians. The orchestra members are seated behind him, playing various instruments including violins and cellos. The background is a blurred audience.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

SPRING 2026

27. - 29.03.

Program
english

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Jörg G. Bucherer-Foundation

A MEETING OF HEROES

The thrilling Beethoven odyssey that the Lucerne Festival Orchestra first embarked on two years ago now enters its third chapter – this time with the great *Sinfonia eroica*, showing the composer at his most defiant and most heroic. Beethoven fought for ideals such as freedom and equality; he was convinced that humankind was destined for a better future – and that promise rings out in the exuberant finale of his Symphony in E-flat major. Franz Welser-Möst leads this performance, following his spectacular debut at the helm of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in 2025 with Beethoven's Ninth, which the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* praised as “a reading of rare clarity and finely judged balance.” The evening will meanwhile open with music by Beethoven's great idol: Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, the hero of his youth. The Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, who is at home in Mozart's world like few others, will perform the D minor Piano Concerto, a work that anticipates the Romantics and that he considers revolutionary. Andsnes says that for him it calls to mind “a drama between the individual – the soloist – and society, which is represented by the orchestra.”

Fri 27.03.

Lucerne Festival Orchestra 1
19.30
KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst conductor
Leif Ove Andsnes piano

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart
Piano Concerto in D minor, K. 466
32 min

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major,
Op. 55 *Sinfonia eroica*
50 min

Introduction to the Concert
18.30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium
with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

CHF 240/200/150/100/60/30



Franz Weiser-Möst



Hagen Quartet



Julia Hagen



Leif Ove Andsnes

THE END OF AN ERA

This quartet is the stuff of legend. The four Hagen siblings from Salzburg, a musical family through and through, formed an ensemble in the 1970s and caused an immediate sensation. Such natural unity and almost telepathic understanding among the players was something audiences had rarely experienced. Early champions included Gidon Kremer, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, and György Kurtág, and soon the ensemble — joined in 1987 by Rainer Schmidt as second violinist — was winning over audiences on major concert stages worldwide. They have collaborated with some of the biggest names in classical music: Maurizio Pollini, Krystian Zimerman, Heinrich Schiff, Mitsuko Uchida, Sabine Meyer, and Jörg Widmann. All four also became members of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, which Claudio Abbado founded in 2003. Now, after nearly 50 years together, the Hagen Quartet bids farewell in the 2025–26 season — and tonight marks its final appearance in Switzerland. Joining them for Schubert's deeply moving String Quintet is the remarkable cellist Julia Hagen, representing the next Hagen generation. And in Brahms's fiercely dramatic Piano Quintet, the phenomenal pianist Kirill Gerstein takes center stage.

Sat 28.03.

Hagen Quartet & Friends

19.30

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Hagen Quartet:

Lukas Hagen violin

Rainer Schmidt violin

Veronika Hagen viola

Clemens Hagen cello

Kirill Gerstein piano

Julia Hagen cello

Johannes Brahms

Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

44 min

Franz Schubert

String Quintet in C major, D 956

53 min

CHF 120/90/60/30



Kirill Gerstein



Emmanuel Tjekhovorian



Riccardo Chailly | Lucerne Festival Orchestra

A FIERY FINALE

For the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and its Music Director Riccardo Chailly, Beethoven's Fourth Symphony may well be the most demanding of them all. It opens with a mysterious introduction that already seems to leap forward into the realm of Romanticism before exploding into a whirlwind of unstoppable energy. The furious whirl of 16th notes that Beethoven unleashes can make even top-notch orchestras break a sweat — but the Lucerne Festival Orchestra inhabits a class of its own. The concert will begin with something truly unique, as 30-year-old Emmanuel Tjeknavorian, a native of Vienna who traces his heritage to Armenia, performs Mendelssohn's radiant Violin Concerto. Tjeknavorian has devoted himself increasingly to conducting in recent years, earning Italy's highly prestigious Premio Abbiati from that nation's critics. Yet it was as a brilliant violin virtuoso that he initially made his name, garnering praise as the recipient of numerous international awards. For Riccardo Chailly — and for him alone — he now takes up his violin once again. "I am simply an artist who makes music," Tjeknavorian says of himself.

Sun 29.03.

Lucerne Festival Orchestra 2
17.00
KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra
Riccardo Chailly conductor
Emmanuel Tjeknavorian violin

Felix Mendelssohn
Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64
30 min

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 4 in B-flat major,
Op. 60
31 min

Introduction to the Concert
16.00 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium
with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

CHF 240/200/150/100/60/30

TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets available starting 9 December 2025, at 10.00 am (Swiss time)

Online

lucernefestival.ch

By telephone

+41 (0)41 226 44 00

Mon-Fri from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon (Swiss time);
throughout the festival (including the week when the festival begins),
telephone hours extend to include between 2.00 and 4.00 pm.

We are also available by telephone on weekends (Saturday and Sunday)
while the festival is under way.

Sales & Visitor Services

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

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

Sat 28.03.

Preview of Lucerne Festival Summer

17.00–18.00

KKL Luzern, Auditorium

with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

Free tickets at
lucernefestival.ch/preview

This Festival Summer – the first under new Executive and Artistic Director Sebastian Nordmann – promises to be an exciting one! In a lively and entertaining talk, Dramaturge Susanne Stähr offers a preview of what's in store: who and what to look forward to, what's new, and what traditions will continue. She'll share insider insights – and, of course, a few hot tips along the way.

THANK YOU!

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We are deeply grateful to all those who
support and promote Lucerne Festival Spring
for their indispensable commitment.**

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Artist Talk with Reinhold Friedrich, Principal Trumpet
of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra

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We are happy to answer any of your questions:
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LUCERNE FESTIVAL

TICKET ORDER FORM

Lucerne Festival Spring | 27 - 29 March 2026

Tickets available starting 9 December 2025, at 10.00 am (Swiss time)

	Time	Concert	No. of tickets	Ticket price	Total
Fri 27.03.	19.30	Lucerne Festival Orchestra 1			
Sat 28.03.	19.30	Hagen Quartet & Friends			
Sun 29.03.	17.00	Lucerne Festival Orchestra 2			
Processing fee					CHF 10
Total amount CHF					

Seating Options

<input type="radio"/> Front Stalls	<input type="radio"/> Gallery	<input type="radio"/> Balcony	
<input type="radio"/> front	<input type="radio"/> back	<input type="radio"/> left	<input type="radio"/> right

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