

SPRING 2027

19.–21.03.

Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Program

English

THE MOZART MYTH

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart died during the night leading into 5 December 1791, at just 35 years of age. The final work he left unfinished was, of all things, a Requiem commissioned by a mysterious stranger. Mozart worked on it until the very end, but then fell seriously ill with an infection. His death certificate listed the cause as "acute miliary fever" — whatever that may have meant. Before long, rumors began to spread that Mozart had been poisoned, and increasingly wild conspiracy theories followed. Mozart's premature death, together with the Requiem, became one of the great mysteries of music history. A myth.

No less mysterious are his final three symphonies, composed just over three years earlier, in the summer of 1788. Why he wrote them, and for what purpose, remains unknown. Nor do we know when they were first performed. For the 19th-century Romantics, this gave rise to the belief that Mozart had written the famous trilogy out of sheer artistic necessity, as his musical legacy to posterity: final words for the ages. As though he had already sensed that he did not have long to live. But what does the music itself tell us?

At Lucerne Festival Spring 2027, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will put the Mozart myth to the test by pairing the final three symphonies with the Requiem. Whatever the answers to these mysteries may be, something extraordinary awaits us: Mozart "at his best," in works that have lost none of their freshness or magic after more than 230 years. Two conductors will make their debuts at the helm of the Festival Orchestra: British conductor Robin Ticciati and Jörg Widmann, Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy, for whom Mozart is one of the "fixed stars" in his musical universe. And then there are the Dutch brothers Lucas and Arthur Jussen, currently the world's most sought-after piano duo, making their long-awaited Festival debut. Naturally, Mozart is part of their program too.

Christian Tetzlaff

Jörg Widmann

Lucas and Arthur Jussen

Robin Ticciati

MOZART GROWLS

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart has played a pivotal role in Robin Ticciati's career. At the age of 15, Ticciati made his conducting debut with the Kyrie, K. 341. When he first appeared at the Salzburg Festival at 23, he conducted *Il sogno di Scipione*. And for his debut at the Glyndebourne Festival, where he now serves as Music Director, he chose *Così fan tutte*. It is only fitting, then, that Ticciati should turn to Mozart for his first concert with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra: the Symphony in E-flat major, K. 543, with its mysterious sonorities reminiscent of Masonic ritual, and the Requiem, Mozart's unfinished swan song. For all the profound, fervent devotion of Mozart's Mass for the Dead, the work also erupts with considerable fury, at times sounding like an angry protest against the inevitability of death. Ticciati is especially fascinated by the way Mozart sets such stark contrasts side by side: light and shadow, inward reflection and explosive outburst. And therein lies the challenge of interpreting this music: "You have to make a decision at almost every moment," he says.

Fri 19.03.

Lucerne Festival Orchestra 1
19.30
KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra
MDR Radio Choir
Robin Ticciati conductor
Hera Hyesang Park soprano
Kate Lindsey mezzo-soprano
Piotr Buszewski tenor
David Steffens bass

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart
Symphony in E-flat major, K. 543
32 min

Requiem in D minor, K. 626
completed by Robert D. Levin
46 min

Introduction to the Concert
18.30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium
(entrance on the train station side)
with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

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

MOZART GREETS

Some piano duos are formed when two star pianists join forces for a handful of concerts or a tour. Then there are Lucas and Arthur Jussen, the brothers from Hilversum in the Netherlands, who have been making music and performing together since childhood. It is a fortunate combination: the Jussens sound less like two pianists than a single musical personality, so perfectly attuned are they to one another. It is hardly surprising that they look to another famous pair of siblings as their great role models: Wolfgang Amadé Mozart and his sister Maria Anna, known as "Nannerl." Fittingly, they open their Lucerne Festival debut with Mozart's Sonata in D major for piano four hands. Composed in 1772, its two completely equal parts reveal how highly Mozart regarded "Nannerl" as a virtuoso in her own right. From there, the Jussens range widely across the repertoire, from celebrated variations by Brahms and Lutosławski to enchanting French music and Gershwin's jazzy *Rhapsody in Blue*. Whatever they play, the sheer joy they take in making music together shines through.

Sat 20.03.

Duo Recital
Lucas & Arthur Jussen
18.30
KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucas & Arthur Jussen piano duo

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart
Sonata in D major for piano four hands, K. 381 (123ª)
12 min

Johannes Brahms
Haydn Variations, Op. 56b, for two pianos
17 min

Witold Lutosławski
Paganini Variations
for two pianos
5 min

Gabriel Fauré
Dolly, Op. 56,
for piano four hands
15 min

Maurice Ravel
Introduction et Allegro
version for two pianos
10 min

George Gershwin
Rhapsody in Blue
version for two pianos
15 min

CHF 130/110/90/70/50/30

MOZART GROOVES

In the summer of 2026, Jörg Widmann, the new Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy, made his Festival debut as a conductor with a spectacular performance of Wolfgang Rihm's *Tutuguri*. Equally at home in the Viennese Classical tradition, Widmann has drawn attention for his refined, taut Mozart interpretations. He will demonstrate this artistry in his first concert with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, performing Mozart's final two symphonies: the so-called "Great" G minor Symphony, whose opening is familiar around the world as a cell phone ringtone, and the radiant *Jupiter* Symphony. Mozart's music has remained as fresh as the day it was written, says Widmann: "It simply doesn't grow old." He hears something strikingly modern in the dissonances of the G minor Symphony: "Mozart even comes close to a twelve-tone row here!" He is just as excited by the counterpoint in the *Jupiter* Symphony: "This is mastery of the highest order, yet the music sounds so incredibly effortless. Mozart grooves!" And that groove is already there in the famous Violin Concerto in A major, the exuberant "Alla turca" Concerto, which Christian Tetzlaff will perform.

Sun 21.03.

Lucerne Festival Orchestra 2
17.00
KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra
Jörg Widmann conductor
Christian Tetzlaff violin

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart
Symphony in G minor, K. 550
35 min

Violin Concerto in A major, K. 219
30 min

Symphony in C major, K. 551 *Jupiter*
40 min

Introduction to the Concert
16.00 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium
(entrance on the train station side)
with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

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

THANK YOU!

Great musical experiences need strong partners! We are deeply grateful to all those who support and promote Lucerne Festival Spring for their indispensable commitment.

Cooperation Partners
Canton and City of Lucerne — Grants and Subsidies
KKL Luzern — Event Partner
Luzern Tourismus
Radio SRF 2 Kultur — Media Partner

Many thanks also go to the Lucerne Festival Friends and to all those supporters who do not wish to be mentioned by name.

Lucerne Festival is a member of

LEADING SWISS EVENTS

MUSIKSTADT LUZERN.
Das klingt fantastisch.

Swiss Sustainable engaged

Mobility Partner

Emil Frey

SWISS

SBB CFF FFS

LUCERNE FESTIVAL FRIENDS



Festival Dramaturg Susanne Stähr in conversation with Sarah Christ, Lucerne Festival Orchestra harpist

AMONG FRIENDS

Become a Lucerne Festival Friend! Meet the artists offstage and join fellow music lovers in supporting the Festival.

We look forward to welcoming you!

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS:

lucernefestival.ch/en/friends-benefits

Questions? We're happy to help:
Isabelle Köhler | +41 (0)41 226 44 52
friends@lucernefestival.ch



"Orchestra of Friends": musicians from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Publishing Credits

Publisher Foundation Lucerne Festival | Executive and Artistic Director: Sebastian Nordmann
Hirschmattstrasse 13 | P.O. Box | CH-6002 Luzern
t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | info@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch
Content and Editing Susanne Stähr, Malte Lohmann
English-Language Editor and Translator Thomas May
Proofreading Antje Reineke
Layout and Production Nadja Keller
Printing Engelberger Druck AG, Stans
Photos Cover: Patrick Hürlimann/Lucerne Festival (image editing: Jason Planzer), Peter Fischli/Lucerne Festival, Manuela Jans/Lucerne Festival, Giorgia Bertazzi, Benjamin Ealavoa, Marco Borggreve

This program was published in November 2026 and is subject to alteration without prior notice.
Printed prices are subject to change.

MIX
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry
FSC® C009751

Print product with financial
climate contribution
ClimatePartner.com/11624-2512-1002

Printed in Switzerland | © 2026 by Lucerne Festival

TICKET SALES

Tickets available starting 24 November 2026 at 10.00 am (Swiss time)

Online
lucernefestival.ch

By telephone
+41 (0)41 226 44 00
Monday to Friday, 10.00 am–12.00 pm (Swiss time)
Additional telephone hours from 2.00 to 4.00 pm during the week advance sales begin (24–27 November 2026), during the opening week, and throughout the Festival; also on weekends during the Festival.

Lucerne Festival Box Office at the KKL Luzern (main entrance)
Open daily from 4.00 p.m. during the Festival (19–21 March 2027).

Sales & Visitor Services
Lucerne Festival | Hirschmattstrasse 13 | CH-6003 Luzern
t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | ticketbox@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch

Sat 20.03.

Preview of
Lucerne Festival Summer
16.00–17.00
KKL Luzern, Auditorium

with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

Free tickets at
lucernefestival.ch/preview

A new year, a new match: Festival Dramaturg Susanne Stähr once again invites you to an informal chat about what's in store for the summer of 2027. What are the highlights and hidden gems? Who are the new stars, and what ideas shape the program? And, of course, you'll also get a glimpse behind the scenes at the Festival and discover how the program comes together.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

TICKET ORDER FORM

Lucerne Festival Spring | 19 – 21 March 2027

Tickets available starting 24 November 2026 at 10.00 am (Swiss time)

	Time	Concert	No. of tickets	Ticket price	Total
Fri 19.03.	19.30	**Lucerne Festival Orchestra 1**			
Sat 20.03.	18.30	**Duo Recital Lucas & Arthur Jussen**			
Sun 21.03.	17.00	**Lucerne Festival Orchestra 2**			
	Processing fee				CHF 10
	Total amount CHF				

Seating Options

○ Front Stalls	○ Gallery	○ Balcony	
○ front	○ back	○ left	○ right

Second choice (if the desired category is no longer available)

○ next highest category	○ best possible tickets in any price category
○ next lowest category	○ no tickets

Invoice

Please choose how you would like to receive your invoice and tickets.

○ by post	○ by email

Customer Information

Last name/First name

Street address

Postal code/City/Country

Telephone

Email

Date

Signature

Please send this order form to:

Lucerne Festival
Sales & Visitor Services | P.O. Box | CH-6002 Luzern
t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | ticketbox@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch