LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Media Release

Kühne Foundation Extends Its Commitment to Lucerne Festival for Another Three Years

Lucerne, 17 November 2026. The Kühne Foundation and Lucerne Festival are continuing their successful partnership. The nonprofit Kühne Foundation has been among Lucerne Festival's supporters since 2008 and has served as a Main Sponsor since 2020. The partnership has now been extended for another three years, through the end of 2030. The Summer Festival and support for the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will remain at the heart of this longstanding partnership. Classical music projects are a major focus of the Foundation's cultural activities, which also benefit a number of renowned cultural institutions.

"It is with great gratitude that we remember Klaus-Michael Kühne, whose enthusiasm for and commitment to music and to Lucerne Festival meant a great deal to us," says Sebastian Nordmann, Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival. "We are delighted that the Kühne Foundation is continuing its partnership with us as a Main Sponsor. We thank the Foundation for the great trust it has placed in us and for its steadfast support over so many years, which will continue to give us the freedom to be artistically bold and to make unique musical experiences possible."

Dr. Thomas Staehelin, President of the Kühne Foundation, says: "The Kühne Foundation has enjoyed close ties with Lucerne Festival and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra for many years. Year after year, the Festival maintains exceptional artistic standards and offers outstanding musical experiences in Lucerne. We are delighted to continue our commitment as a Main Sponsor and to carry forward this longstanding partnership."

The nonprofit **Kühne Foundation**, which is based in Schindellegi in the Canton of Schwyz, was established by the Kühne family in 1976. As an operating foundation, it is active in education and research in logistics. It also maintains the Medicine Campus Davos, with extensive research programs in allergy and cardiology, and it operates the Hochgebirgsklinik Davos. The Foundation initiates and carries out projects at the intersection of logistics and climate protection. In the cultural sphere, it supports leading festivals, opera houses, and concert halls in several European countries; runs the Kühne Akademy; and plans to donate a new opera house to the City of Hamburg.

Lucerne Festival is one of the world's leading classical music festivals. Founded in 1938, it has been led by Executive and Artistic Director Sebastian Nordmann since January 2026. The main Summer Festival, which is held from mid-August to mid-September, offers a wide-ranging program of more than 120 concerts and additional events. Each Summer Festival is shaped by a theme that gives the programming its overall coherence. Its many concert formats include symphonic concerts, chamber music, recitals, debut concerts, open-air concerts, and much more.

Alongside Lucerne Festival Summer, shorter festivals are held in spring and fall: Spring takes place before Easter and serves as the Lucerne Festival Orchestra's spring residency; Pulse is held in May and is curated by Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson; and Forward, a festival devoted to contemporary music, takes place in November.

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