

“Roche Commissions” 2022 and 2024

The 11th “Roche Commission” *Air* by Thomas Adès, with Anne-Sophie Mutter as the soloist and the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra, premieres on 27 August

The 12th “Roche Commission” goes to Swiss composer Beat Furrer and premieres in 2024

Lucerne, 26 August 2022. The world premiere of *Air* for solo violin and orchestra, the 11th “Roche Commission” by British composer Thomas Adès with Anne-Sophie Mutter as the soloist and the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO), will take place on Saturday, 27 August. The composer will conduct the program himself at the KKL Lucerne Concert Hall. The musicians have been studying and working on the score over the past few days with Anne-Sophie Mutter and Thomas Adès as part of the Lucerne Festival Academy.

The title of Thomas Adès' *Air* is a musical term for a melody or song. Through this work, the composer fulfills violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter's wish for him to create an instrumental aria rather than a bravura concerto. The violin's melody floats like a song high in the register above a slowly striding orchestral texture.

As part of the “Roche Commissions” series, the 12th edition of “Roche Commissions” will go to the Swiss-born Austrian composer Beat Furrer. He is one of the most sought-after representatives of his generation. The selection was made by Roche at the suggestion of Lucerne Festival's artistic leadership. The world premiere of his work will take place as part of the 2024 Summer Festival and Beat Furrer will also conduct the new work.

Beat Furrer

Swiss-Austrian composer Beat Furrer, who was born in 1954, studied conducting with Otmar Suitner and composition with Roman Haubenstock Ramati at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna. In 1985, Furrer founded the renowned ensemble Klangforum Wien, which he led until 1992 and with which he has been associated as a conductor ever since. He was composer-in-residence at Lucerne Festival in 1996, then still known as the Lucerne International Festival of Music. Since the 1980s, his diverse oeuvre has ranged from solo compositions and chamber music to works for ensemble, choir, and orchestra, as well as operas. He was awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 2006, and in 2018 he received the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize. His works have been performed at the Theater Basel, the Donaueschinger Musiktage or at the Staatsoper Berlin, Vienna and Hamburg. Since the Fall of 1991, Furrer has been a full professor of composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz.

The Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO)

The Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) was founded in 2021 as a counterpart to the Lucerne Festival Orchestra: an orchestra of excellence for the performance of contemporary music. It brings together former and current students of the Lucerne Festival Academy. The Academy's network, which has grown over the course of 18 years, now numbers over 1,400 instrumentalists, conductors, and composers. It represents Lucerne Festival's long-standing commitment to new music. The orchestra's repertoire ranges from the dawn of classical Modernism to contemporary works. In both large and small formations, the LFCO performs concerts at the Academy during the Summer Festival, which are followed by guest appearances abroad, including at Musikfest Berlin and the Donaueschinger Musiktage in 2021. In Lucerne, the LFCO is also the resident orchestra of Lucerne Festival Forward, the festival for contemporary music, which was launched in November 2021.

The Lucerne Festival Academy

The Lucerne Festival Academy was founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez and Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger. Every summer, students work here with internationally renowned composers and conductors to prepare and perform contemporary scores and modern classics. The composer Wolfgang Rihm has served as Artistic Director of the Academy since 2016. Through daily rehearsals, workshops, and lessons, and other instruction with some 15 instrumental coaches, the tools required for the performance of new music are taught. An important factor is the passing on of knowledge within the Academy network. Around 10 to 20 former participants play an important role within the Academy as Contemporary Leaders. They act as mentors during the three weeks in which the Academy takes place in the summer, passing on their knowledge and coordinating or leading the rehearsals in their respective section groups. Following a rotation of two years, this task is handed over to other upcoming musicians. Together with Alumni, the students form the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) and perform the works they have rehearsed. In recent years, guest performances at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and Musikfest Berlin have taken place following the Academy in Lucerne.

About Roche

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About Roche Arts & Culture

Roche supports groundbreaking contemporary art, cultural projects and activities that explore the parallels between innovation in art and in science. The focus is on music, while also supporting the visual arts and architecture. The aim is to foster and cultivate interactions with contemporary music and art as a means to express Roche's commitment to innovation characterized by excellence, distinctiveness and passion.

Photos may be downloaded at: lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos

Roche - Main Sponsor and Partner of the Lucerne Festival Academy

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