

# LUCERNE FESTIVAL



## 2024 SUMMER FESTIVAL

13 August to 15 September

Theme of “Curiosity” and the Lucerne Festival Academy at 20

Riccardo Chailly, Klaus Mäkelä, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin conduct the Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Lisa Batiashvili and Sheku Kanneh-Mason are “artistes étoiles”; Lisa Streich and Beat Furrer are composers-in-residence

Piano greats convene at the Summer Festival: Leif Ove Andsnes, Rudolf Buchbinder, Mao Fujita, Alexander Malofeev, Víkingur Ólafsson, Beatrice Rana, Sir Andrés Schiff, Daniil Trifonov, Anna Vinnitskaya, and many more

Along with the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris, Cleveland Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, and Munich and Czech Philharmonics are among the guest ensembles

Lucerne, 5 March 2024. On 13 August 2024, the Summer Festival in Lucerne, Switzerland’s largest classical music festival, kicks off with a focus on the theme of “Curiosity.” A total of 115 events will be presented at the KKL Lucerne and other venues over the course of 33 days. In addition to 32 symphony concerts featuring the world’s most-renowned orchestras, the program includes solo concerts, chamber music, family concerts, and 42 free events. Emerging young stars as well as the most sought-after artists in the industry will appear, including Daniel Barenboim, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Andris Nelsons, Anna Prohaska, Kirill Petrenko, Sir Andrés Schiff, Christian Thielemann, Daniil Trifonov, and many others.

The poster images announcing the summer theme of “Curiosity” are inspired by lottery scratch cards where you scratch off the coating, prompted by curiosity to discover what lies hidden underneath. The Festival’s focus on “Curiosity” refers to contemporary music, an important focus of the Summer Festival owing to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lucerne Festival Academy. Founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez and Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger, this master school for new

1/4

music remains internationally unique today and has an extensive global network comprising more than 1,500 graduates. “Hunger for the new” – which is what the German word for “curiosity” (“Neugier”) literally means – will likewise be reflected in the world premieres of 20 new works to be presented this summer by the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO), the Festival’s in-house ensemble devoted to new music. But “Curiosity” in the 2024 Summer Festival also refers more broadly to the desire to learn and to develop and is therefore reflected in the information-rich enhancements of the programming for all age groups, including introductions, post-concert talks, and moderated concert formats.

## **Opening Week and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra**

This year, youth orchestras will once again be given a platform ahead of the official opening. The Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine will kick off the Summer Festival on 13 August under the direction of Oksana Lyniv, followed by the European Union Youth Orchestra with Gianandrea Noseda and cellist Nicolas Altstaedt on the next day. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will then officially open the Festival on 16 August with Gustav Mahler’s Seventh Symphony under the direction of its Music Director Riccardo Chailly. In lieu of a keynote speech on the theme of “Curiosity,” a new work by this year’s composer-in-residence Lisa Streich will be presented to make a statement on the summer theme. The traditional live public broadcast of the concert, known as “Lakeside Symphony,” will again take place in Inseli Park adjacent to the KKL Luzern. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will perform a total of six concerts. Riccardo Chailly will continue with his Rachmaninoff cycle, while Alexander Malofeev, who received acclaim as a soloist with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra during its tour to Asia in 2019, will join to perform Sergei Rachmaninoff’s First Piano Concerto. The Finnish star conductor Klaus Mäkelä will make his debut with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, while Yannick Nézet-Séguin returns as a guest conductor of the ensemble.

## **A First-Class Double Pack: Two “artistes étoiles”**

Violinist Lisa Batiashvili and cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason can be heard in various contexts as this summer’s “artistes étoiles.” Batiashvili will perform Mozart’s Violin Concerto in A major, K. 219, with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Orchestre de Paris. She will also appear with two musicians who hold grants from her foundation, the Lisa Batiashvili Foundation. Kanneh-Mason will perform Shostakovich’s First Cello Concerto with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich and the Dvořák Concerto with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. He will also take part in a recital accompanied by piano and exploring the theme “Bach & Beyond” as well as a South American-inspired Late Night event alongside guitarist Plínio Fernandes.

## **Acclaimed Symphony Orchestras and International Stars**

Lucerne Festival is a byword for varied programming that offers a lineup of the most acclaimed symphony orchestras from around the world, which can be heard from one day to the next at the KKL Lucerne, along with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and the LFCO. Regular guests for many years include the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra with Daniel Barenboim. The Berliner Philharmoniker will perform in Lucerne with Kirill Petrenko, the Vienna Philharmonic with Christian Thielemann, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra with Myung-Whun Chung, while Antonello Manacorda makes his Festival debut conducting the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. This summer also brings guest appearances by the Budapest Festival Orchestra with Iván Fischer, the Cleveland Orchestra with Franz Welser-Möst, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra with Andris Nelsons, the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra with Lahav Shani, the Orchestre de Paris with Klaus Mäkelä, the Staatskapelle Berlin with Susanna Mälkki, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle, and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra with Jakub

# LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Hrůša. Following last summer's *Das Rheingold*, Dresden Festival Orchestra and Concerto Köln will continue Wagner's *Ring* cycle with Kent Nagano with a concert performance of *Die Walküre* using period instruments and replicating the style of declamation from Wagner's own time. Ensembles from Switzerland include the Festival Strings Lucerne, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra with Michael Sanderling, and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich with Paavo Järvi. The closing concert will present Arnold Schoenberg's monumental *Gurre-Lieder* in a performance by the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra with choirs from Northwestern and Central German Radio and the Radio Choir Berlin under the direction of Alan Gilbert.

## **A Gathering of the Most Significant Soloists of Our Time**

The most sought-after emerging pianists as well as keyboard legends of our time are equally represented at the Summer Festival: Leif Ove Andsnes, Rudolf Buchbinder, Mao Fujita, Alexander Malofeev, Víkingur Ólafsson, Beatrice Rana, Daniil Trifonov, Sir András Schiff, and Anna Vinnitskaya are all scheduled to perform. In addition to the two "artistes étoiles," other prominent soloists include cellists Nicolas Altstaedt and Julia Hagen as well as violinists Renaud Capuçon, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, and Anne-Sophie Mutter. The French-Italian mezzo-soprano Lea Desandre, an emerging star on the opera scene, is preparing a Vivaldi program exclusively for Lucerne Festival with lutenist Thomas Dunford and Ensemble Jupiter.

## **20 Years of the Lucerne Festival Academy and 20 World Premieres**

20 years after the Lucerne Festival Academy was founded by Pierre Boulez and Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger, this master school for contemporary music celebrates a milestone anniversary with numerous concerts; works by the two composers-in-residence, Lisa Streich and Beat Furrer, will take center stage. The LFCO will present a total of six programs, which will be introduced by short pre-concerts in the KKL lobby. Interested listeners can also enter a competition to win a tailor-made house concert. In addition to the Composer Seminar focusing on eight ensemble works, which is being held in collaboration with the International Ensemble Modern Academy (IEMA), Artistic Director Wolfgang Rihm will initiate a second Composer Seminar in 2024 with Swiss composer Dieter Ammann involving four orchestral works to be premiered by the LFCO. The programming also includes the trumpet concerto *Méduse* by Lisa Streich, which was co-commissioned by Lucerne Festival and features Academy alumnus Simon Höfele as the soloist, and a work by Beat Furrer commissioned as part of the "Roche Commissions" series for 2024, which he himself will conduct. Academy alumna Ruth Reinhardt will conduct the 20<sup>th</sup>-anniversary concert of the Lucerne Festival Academy, in which the LFCO will perform works by Boulez, Rihm, Streich, and Schoenberg.

The LFCO will perform a total of eight of the 20 world premieres programmed during the Summer Festival. Additional contemporary highlights include guest performances by Ensemble Helix, Klangforum Wien, and Cantando Admont. Beat Furrer will lead Klangforum Wien in the Swiss premiere of his opera *Begehren*, while Sir George Benjamin will conduct a new concerto for trombone and orchestra by Andrew Norman, with Jörgen van Rijen as the soloist. For this year's *räsonanz* - Donor Concert, a cooperation with the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, Lahav Shani will conduct the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra in Henri Dutilleux's violin concerto *L'arbre des songes*, with Renaud Capuçon performing the solo part.

## **Music for Future, 40min, Cooperation with the Luzerner Theater, and "In the Streets"**

The Music for Future category is where Lucerne Festival brings young stars to the stage or offers a special program for young audiences and their families. This encompasses the Debut series in the Lukaskirche, which presents young instrumentalists and ensembles who are just entering the

# LUCERNE FESTIVAL

international spotlight. This year's lineup includes harpist Tjasha Gafner (Switzerland), winner of the renowned ARD Music Competition; pianists Isata Kanneh-Mason (UK), Mélodie Zhao (Switzerland), and Martin James Bartlett (UK); horn player Annemarie Federle (Germany); bassoonist Theo Plath (Germany); and the Adelphi Quartet (Europe). A percussion show by the Berlin duo Voermans and the music theater project "Krach mit Bach" ("Make a Noise with Bach") by Jörg Schade and Franz-Georg Stähling are among the family concerts. Iván Fischer will present another family concert titled "Open Your Ears: Classical Music!" with chamber music groups from his Budapest Festival Orchestra. The Music for Future program will be enhanced with more than 20 exclusive school concerts for the Lucerne region, including one with an ensemble from the Berliner Philharmoniker in the KKL Luzern Concert Hall.

The popular 40min events will be offered on eight different evenings, always at 6.20 pm: these are short, free events presented by Festival artists, such as a 40min concert with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. In addition, a 40min Open Air event comprising three different 40min programs will be held on the Europaplatz in front of the KKL Luzern.

This summer, the Luzerner Theater is presenting Lucia Ronchetti's opera *Der Doppelgänger* in cooperation with Lucerne Festival. It can be seen for the first time in Switzerland starting on September 7, following the production's premiere at the Schwetzingen SWR Festival at the end of April. And the "In the Streets" festival will bring world music to Lucerne between 27 August and 1 September and will feature eight international music groups from countries including Italy, Northern Ireland, Germany, and Switzerland.

This year's summer program is made possible thanks to the support of more than 50 Sponsors, Foundations, and Patrons and some 400 Friends of Lucerne Festival. We are very grateful to all of our Partners and Sponsors for their indispensable commitment. We warmly welcome Emil Frey AG and Zuger Kantonalbank as new Concert Sponsors. Companies can now also become engaged with Lucerne Festival as Corporate Partners, which includes a Corporate Partners Night as a special event on 23 August.

Press photos may be downloaded from [lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos](http://lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos). Additional media releases on the specific areas of the Festival can be found in the press section on the website.

## Summer Festival

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