



**LUCERNE
FESTIVAL**

**APPLY
NOW!**

Deadline
15.02.2026

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY

07.08. – 07.09.2026

Program and Application Details

Jörg Widmann Artistic Director

Pierre Boulez † Founder and Honorary President

lucernefestival.ch/academy

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

If you would like to be in the know about what's happening right now in the world of contemporary music, the Lucerne Festival Academy is the place to be. For four weeks, you get to focus entirely on contemporary music and work with some of today's leading performers. Being part of the public community is a new pillar of the Academy, which will be expanded from 2026 onwards. New and existing formats will be implemented in collaboration with guerillaclassics. Beginning in 2026, the Academy will be led by composer, clarinetist, and conductor Jörg Widmann, with whom you will tackle such projects as Wolfgang Rihm's *Tutuguri*, a spectacular exploration of sound which will also be performed on tour at the Philharmonie Berlin and the Isarphilharmonie Munich. You will also meet Mark Andre, the 2026 Summer Festival's composer-in-residence, and work on his clarinet concerto *über* as well as his large-scale orchestral triptych *Im Entschwinden – Im Entfalten – Im Entbergen*. The lineup additionally includes world premieres by Jalalu-Kalvert Nelson and Liza Lim, who has written a concerto for the carnyx, an ancient bronze trumpet. And in keeping with the Summer Festival's theme of "American Dreams," the program spans music from John Adams and Steve Reich to Frank Zappa and his legendary final work, *The Yellow Shark*.

But the Lucerne Festival Academy extends well beyond instrumental training: young conductors can apply for the Contemporary-Conducting Program, while Dieter Ammann and Unsuk Chin offer a one-week Composer Seminar.

Founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez and later led by Wolfgang Rihm, the Lucerne Festival Academy gives young musicians from around the world the opportunity to engage deeply with the music of our time – from 20th- and 21st-century classics to freshly written scores. Leading performers of contemporary music serve as coaches and offer in-depth workshops. The Lucerne Festival Academy Coaches, who are former Academy members, will also be on hand as mentors during rehearsals to pass on their experience. All participants of the Academy play in the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) and additionally join together in various ensembles to perform events as part of the Festival's related programming.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

PROGRAM FOR 2026

FRI 14 AUGUST

18.30 | KKL Lucerne, Concert Hall

LUCERNE FESTIVAL OPENING

Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO)

Reich *New York Counterpoint* for 11 clarinets

SUN 16 AUGUST

18.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY 1

Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) | Jörg Widmann conductor |

Michael Engelhardt speaker | Markus Güdel light | Maxime Le Saux sound design

Rihm *Tutuguri. Poème dansé* for large orchestra, percussion, taped choir, and speaker

SAT 22 AUGUST

16.00 | KKL Lucerne, Lucerne Hall

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY 2

Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) |

Baldur Brönnimann conductor | Miah Persson soprano

Andre *Im Entschwinden* for orchestra | *Im Entfalten (Dem Andenken an Pierre Boulez)* for orchestra | *Im Entbergen* for soprano and orchestra (world premiere).

SAT 22 AUGUST

21.00 | KKL Lucerne, Lucerne Hall

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY 3

Ensemble des Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) |

Participants of the Contemporary-Conducting Program conductors

Zappa *The Yellow Shark*

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

PROGRAM FOR 2026

25-27 AUGUST

Various locations

IN DEN STRASSEN: CITY STAGE

Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO)

Being part of the public community is a new pillar of the Academy, which will be expanded from 2026 onwards. New and existing formats will be implemented in collaboration with guerillaclassics.

SAT 29 AUGUST

18.30 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY 4

Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) | **Elim Chan** conductor |
Jörg Widmann clarinet | **Marco Blaauw** carnyx | **SWR Experimentalstudio**

Andre über for clarinet, orchestra und live electronics | **Lim Tongue of the Land** for carnyx and orchestra (world premiere «Roche Commissions») | **Adams Doctor Atomic Symphony**

SUN 30 AUGUST

16.00 | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY 5

Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) |
Participants of the Contemporary-Conducting Program conductors

Thomas Excerpts from *Abracadabra (Suncatchers)* for eleven virtuosi | **Carter Asko Concerto** for ensemble | **Nelson Endangered Dreams** for ensemble (world premiere) | **Reich Mallet Quartet**

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

LUCERNE FESTIVAL CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA (LFCO) ON TOUR

WED 02 SEPTEMBER 2026

19.00

BERLINER PHILHARMONIE

Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) | **Jörg Widmann** conductor |
Michael Engelhardt speaker | **Markus Güdel** light | **Maxime Le Saux** sound design

Rihm *Tutuguri. Poème dansé* for large orchestra, percussion, taped choir, and speaker

SUN 06 SEPTEMBER 2026

19.00

ISARPHILHARMONIE MÜNCHEN

Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) | **Jörg Widmann** conductor |
Michael Engelhardt speaker | **Markus Güdel** light | **Maxime Le Saux** sound design

Rihm *Tutuguri. Poème dansé* for large orchestra, percussion, taped choir, and speaker

FRITZ GERBER AWARD

07.08.-07.09.2026 LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY

30.08.2026 AWARD CEREMONY

JURY

Sebastian Nordmann, Mark Sattler, Lucerne Festival Academy Coaches

Established in 2015 by the Fritz Gerber Foundation and Lucerne Festival, the Fritz Gerber Award annually supports three young musicians in the field of contemporary classical music. Each winner of the award receives a cash prize of CHF 10 000, and the Foundation also makes it possible for the prizewinners to attend the Lucerne Festival Academy. The candidates must have Swiss citizenship or have lived in Switzerland for a minimum of three years. All Lucerne Festival Academy applicants who meet the requirements are automatically included in the Fritz Gerber Award selection.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY

07.08. – 07.09.2026

GUEST CONDUCTORS

Jörg Widmann, Baldur Brönnimann, and Elim Chan

SOLOISTS

Jörg Widmann, Marco Blauuw, and Miah Persson

TEACHING FACULTY

Lucerne Festival Academy Coaches

Jack Adler-McKean tuba
Ana Maria Santos clarinet
Zachary Bond trombone
Claire Chenette oboe
Matteo Cesari flute
Estelle Costanzo harp
Deepa Goonetilleke horn
Markus Hohti violoncello
Josh Henderson violin

Rachel Koblyakov violin
Ari Streisfeld violin
Szuhwa Wu violin
Rebecca Toal trumpet
Talvi Hunt piano
Kathryn Schulmeister double bass
João Carlos Pacheco percussion
Nanci Belmont bassoon
Stephen Upshaw viola

GUEST FACULTY

Christoph Sietzen percussion
Helen Bledsoe flute, Ensemble Musikfabrik
Martin Adámek clarinet, Ensemble intercontemporain
Elise Jacobberger bassoon, Ensemble Musikfabrik
Daniel Ciampolini percussion
Frédérique Cambreling harp, Ensemble intercontemporain
Éric-Maria Couturier violoncello, Ensemble intercontemporain
Uli Fussenegger double bass, Hochschule für Musik Basel
...and many more

LUCERNE FESTIVAL



Application deadline:

**SUNDAY,
15 FEBRUARY 2026**

For further information, please consult our
website and/or contact us:

**lucernefestival.ch/academy
academy@lucernefestival.ch**

Acknowledgments

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Fritz Gerber Foundation