

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

A NEW FUTURE FOR LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Three Areas of Artistic Focus – Symphony, Contemporary, Music for Future –

To Guide Four Annual Periods of Musical Presentation

SIGNATURE SUMMER FESTIVAL TO BE COMPLEMENTED BY EVENTS

AT EASTER AND IN MAY AND NOVEMBER EACH YEAR

LUCERNE FESTIVAL CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA (LFCO) LAUNCHES

Comprised of Current and Former Members of Lucerne Festival Academy

ORCHESTRA TO BE FEATURED AT SUMMER FESTIVALS STARTING IN 2021

AND AS PART OF NEW NOVEMBER SERIES: LUCERNE FESTIVAL FORWARD!

Repertoire for Autumn Performances to be Artistically Driven by the Musicians

With Public Digital Dialogue

IGOR LEVIT TO CURATE ANNUAL THREE-DAY PIANO FESTIVAL

EACH MAY BEGINNING IN 2023

EASTER PROGRAMS TO FEATURE RICCARDO CHAILLY AND

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Two-Year Mendelssohn Exploration Planned for 2022-23

UPDATED SUMMER 2021 PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

FESTIVAL THEME “CRAZY”

Modified Festival, August 10 – September 12

Guided by COVID-19 Swiss Health and Safety Guidelines

Lucerne, Switzerland, May 5, 2021 – Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger, and Markus Hongler, Chairman of the Lucerne Festival Foundation Board, today revealed a comprehensive new strategy and future for the Lucerne Festival focusing on three philosophical-artistic ideas – Symphony, Contemporary, Music for

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Future – which will inform and guide four distinct periods of musical presentation annually. The signature summer Lucerne Festival (mid-August to mid-September), a beloved international destination for orchestral music – featuring Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, always the world’s brightest orchestras, artists and composers, and the bold explorations of the Lucerne Festival Academy – will continue to serve as anchor for an expanded calendar, featuring:

- November: LUCERNE FESTIVAL FORWARD! artistically and conceptually designed by musicians of the new LUCERNE FESTIVAL CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA (LFCO), comprised of current and former students of the Lucerne Festival Academy
- May: PIANO FESTIVAL / Curated by IGOR LEVIT, an eclectic three-day series beginning in May 2023 (a Spring Residency, featuring two symphonic programs, will be presented in the interim, May 2022)
- EASTER: Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra

LUCERNE FESTIVAL FORWARD! will emphasize new, innovative developments in the field of contemporary music each November. Both artistically and programmatically, it will be defined by members of the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO). The Festival will actively involve the public in the planning process through digital communication channels (more details on the public development process and programs will be announced in late May, before the Summer 2021 Festival). This newly conceived Festival orchestra for the music of our time comprises members of the international Academy network. The KKL Luzern serves as the Festival headquarters, but Lucerne Festival Forward! Performances will take place throughout the city, involving all age groups, and will offer unusual concert formats and integrate new technologies. The inaugural Lucerne Festival Forward! will be held from November 19-21, 2021.

Celebrated in the musical world, and following the great success of his Beethoven cycle at the Lucerne Festival, pianist IGOR LEVIT will curate a new, annual PIANO

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FESTIVAL. Beginning in 2023, he will present a long weekend of concerts each May in which he will not only perform but also introduce artist friends and ensembles from other musical genres.

Starting in 2022, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will open the Festival year annually on the weekend before EASTER, under the direction of its music director Riccardo Chailly. For the first two years, Chailly and the Orchestra will offer an exploration of Mendelssohn, coupling all of the composer's symphonies with music by his contemporaries Wagner, Schubert, and Berlioz, as well as his role model, Johann Sebastian Bach.

As the musical world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 SUMMER FESTIVAL, from August 10 to September 12, has been modified and adapted, but will feature, as always, an extraordinary range of events, including Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, international stars, orchestras, and ensembles. With the Festival theme "Crazy," a total of around 87 symphony and chamber concerts will be offered, as well as recitals, various children's and family concerts, and much more. Tickets to the events go on sale starting on May 17, with a maximum hall occupancy of 1,000 concertgoers permitted in the KKL Luzern concert hall.

ACROSS THE FESTIVAL, THREE AREAS OF ARTISTIC FOCUS

The Lucerne Festival will highlight its central offerings through three artistic categories. SYMPHONY presents the world's most renowned symphony orchestras. These can be experienced every day during the Summer Festival in the Salle blanche of the KKL Luzern, thus transforming the Festival into a unique summit meeting of orchestras. The opening phase of the Summer Festival features performances by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, followed each year by the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras, the Royal Concertgebouworkest, and numerous other top orchestras. In addition, classical music stars from all over the

world can be experienced. The CONTEMPORARY category involves the Festival's commitment to contemporary music, with the Lucerne Festival Academy forming its core. Current and former students of the Lucerne Festival Academy form the newly founded Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO), which focuses on contemporary repertoire as well as modern classics both during the Festival and in guest performances abroad. In addition, the position of composer-in-residence is part of the Contemporary category. MUSIC FOR FUTURE shows that the Lucerne Festival is committed to the generation of tomorrow: to the future stars and orchestral musicians on the concert stage as well as the young audiences listening to them in the hall: children, young people, and families. This includes the long-standing "Debut" series, the varied family and children's concerts, school projects, and such major sponsorship prizes as the Credit Suisse Young Artist Award.

"The coronavirus is putting the Festival, like all other presenters, to a tough test," explains Markus Hongler. "But at Lucerne Festival, we have viewed the crisis as an opportunity and used the time to sharpen our strategic profile for the future, to show our colors with a new look, and to position ourselves optimally with new concepts." Adds Michael Haefliger: "Through this strategy we are emphasizing that we are determined to continue developing as one of the leading international classical music festivals. Whether tradition versus innovation, local roots versus digital offerings — it is this positive ambiguity that defines and drives Lucerne Festival. We always have the future of music in mind and look forward to what is coming!"

At the Lucerne Festival, young talent encounters established stars, tradition meets innovation, live concerts are presented alongside digital offerings, and Central Switzerland joins up with the wider world. The creative tension that emerges forms the basic idea for the new brand identity, which was developed by Metadesign, based in Zurich. It is visually realized through juxtapositions: two colors, two images, and even the words Lucerne and Festival collide. From the logo through the imagery

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and the powerful colors to the signature font — the new visual look symbolizes the inspiring dialectic of opposites that opens new horizons.

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