

LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

2023 Summer Festival

20-Year Anniversary of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Concerts with Riccardo Chailly and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, with “artiste étoile” Daniil Trifonov, Maria João Pires, and Wiebke Lehmkuhl as the featured soloists

They will focus on symphonies by Brahms, Bruckner, and Mahler and continue the Rachmaninoff cycle.

20 years after the Lucerne Festival Orchestra was founded, this “Orchestra of Friends” celebrates its anniversary with a total of six concerts: four symphony concerts and two chamber music programs. As an accompaniment to the concerts, Lucerne’s “stattkino” will screen recordings of seven historically significant concerts with the orchestra’s two music directors, Claudio Abbado and Riccardo Chailly. In addition, the musicians and Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger will look back over the past 20 years in a public panel discussion.

On 11 August, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly will open this year’s Summer Festival, which explores the theme of “Paradise,” with Gustav Mahler’s Third Symphony. The performers include the women of the Bavarian Radio Choir, the Lucerne Kantorei, and alto Wiebke Lehmkuhl. “Lakeside Symphony,” the popular and free-admission live broadcast of the opening, will also take place simultaneously in Inseli Park right next to the KKL Luzern.

On the following evening, the pianist Maria João Pires performs with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra under the direction of Riccardo Chailly, appearing as the soloist in Wolfgang Amadé Mozart’s Piano Concerto in D minor. The second half of the concert will feature Johannes Brahms’s Fourth Symphony. Riccardo Chailly will also continue the Rachmaninoff cycle on 16 August, when the pianist Daniil Trifonov, this year’s “artiste étoile,” will appear with the orchestra as the soloist in that composer’s Fourth Piano Concerto; he will play the rarely performed original version. Rachmaninoff’s First Symphony fills out the program.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin returns to the podium of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra on 19 August, following his acclaimed appearance as guest conductor in the summer of 2019. He will lead an account of Anton Bruckner’s monumental Eighth Symphony. The evening begins with *D’un soir triste* by the French composer Lili Boulanger, who died at an early age.

Two chamber music concerts featuring soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra are scheduled for 13 and 18 August, respectively. “Artiste étoile” Daniil Trifonov will join the musicians for the second concert. The two programming for the two concerts will suggest links to the founding year of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra by presenting works that were performed in 2003: Claude Debussy’s Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp; Maurice Ravel’s *Introduction et Allegro* for Harp, Flute, and String Quartet, *Transfigured Night* by Arnold Schoenberg, and Franz Schubert’s beloved *Trout Quintet*.

To mark the orchestra’s 20th anniversary, Lucerne’s “stattkino” will screen a total of seven recordings of historically significant concerts between 9 and 20 August; these concerts were conducted by Claudio Abbado or Riccardo Chailly and will be accompanied by personal interviews with the figures involved. In addition, founding members Annette zu Castell, Wolfram Christ, Reinhold Friedrich, and Veronika Hagen will participate in a panel discussion with Festival Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger and moderator Susanne Stähr. A list of the recorded concerts that will be shown at

the “stattkino” as well as of additional projects that will take place to mark the anniversary will appear on the website at a later date.

All concert dates of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra can be found in the Festival Summer Program on page 6.

Press photos may be downloaded at lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos

Kühne-Stiftung - Main Sponsor and Partner Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Contacts for Press and Public Relations

Nina Steinhart, Head of Public Relations | n.steinhart@lucernefestival.ch | T +41 (0)41 226 44 43
Sereina Kubli | s.kubli@lucernefestival.ch | T +41 (0)41 226 44 59