



Media Release

Roche Young Commissions: The Commissions for 2021 Have Been Awarded to the Composers Kirsten Milenko and Alex Vaughan

Lucerne, 3 September 2019. **Kirsten Milenko (27)** and **Alex Vaughan (31)**, two young composers from Australia, will receive the prestigious commissions of the *Roche Young Commissions* program for 2021. They were selected by Wolfgang Rihm, the Artistic Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy. Yesterday, on 2 September, these talented young composers attended an official reception at Roche. Milenko and Vaughan will each write a work for orchestra, to be completed by 2021, which they will then revise and rehearse with Rihm and the Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy in the summer of 2020. The world premieres of each of their works will take place as part of the 2021 Summer Festival. **Marianna Liik** and **Josep Planells Schiaffino** were commissioned by the *Roche Young Commissions* in 2017, and their compositions were premiered yesterday, on 1 September 2019, in a concert with the Lucerne Festival Academy conducted by David Fulmer and Ruth Reinhardt in the KKL Luzern Concert Hall.

The *Roche Young Commissions* were initially established in 2013 as a unique collaboration between Roche, Lucerne Festival, and the Lucerne Festival Academy. Since 2003, the *Roche Commissions* series has commissioned world-renowned composers to write new works, and the partnership has been expanded by the *Roche Young Commissions* program. The works of the *Roche Commissions* and of the *Roche Young Commissions* are premiered in alternating two-year cycles.

Born in Australia in 1992, **Kirsten Milenko** lives and composes in Copenhagen and studies at the Royal Danish Academy of Music with Niels Rosing-Schow and Simon Løffler. She previously studied with Liza Lim, Rosalind Page, Natasha Anderson, and Ursula Caporali at the Sydney Conservatory of Music and won the Ignaz Friedman Memorial Prize in 2015. She has attended several international workshops and master classes, including the Hatched Academy with Ensemble Offspring in Australia; the Dartington International Summer School in England, where she won the John Amis Award; the composer workshop with Jessica Cottis; and a composer workshop with Mark Shiell and the Melbourne Youth Orchestra in Australia. She is signed to the Australian label Muisti-Records, and her debut album *Caeli* was released in June 2019.

Alex Vaughan, who was born 1987 in Sydney, began trombone lessons at the age of eight, followed by several years of training in jazz and music theory at the Music Life School of Performing Arts under the direction of Rory Thomas in Sydney. He studied composition and jazz trombone at the University of New South Wales and then moved to Weimar to continue his studies in Germany. In 2015, he won the Sonderhäuser Composition Scholarship and the DAAD Prize, which was awarded by the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. He completed his degree in Weimar in 2017 and received the Baldreit Scholarship from the city of Baden-Baden for 2017-18. His teachers include Reinhard Wolschina, Jörn Arnecke, and Hansjörg Fink. He has also attended master classes with Tristan Murail, Pierluigi Billone, Simon Stehen-Andersen, and Klaus Lang.

Roche – Partner of the Lucerne Festival Academy

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