



## Media Release

**A successful comeback for the live-music experience with "Life Is Live": Lucerne Festival inspires 7,400 concertgoers and attains a capacity of 87%**

**Tickets are still available for the performances today and this weekend by Cecilia Bartoli, Igor Levit, and the Lucerne Festival Alumni**

**The charity campaign #SolidarityForMusic benefiting freelance musicians has been extended until 11 September**

*Lucerne, 21 August 2020.* The "Life Is Live" Festival draws to a close on Sunday, 23 August, with very satisfying final figures of 87% capacity and 7,400 concertgoers. Following cancellation of its initially planned summer of concerts, which was necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic, Lucerne Festival launched the ten-day "Life Is Live" Festival within the framework of what was feasible in accordance with the conditions allowed by the Canton of Lucerne. The upper limit for audience presence was 1,000 people in the auditorium. The Festival presented international musicians, most of whom live in Switzerland, including Martha Argerich, Herbert Blomstedt, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Valentine Michaud, Mauro Peter, and Peter Conradin Zumthor. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra was the focus for the opening weekend. Highlights over the days still remaining in the Festival include performances by Cecilia Bartoli, Igor Levit, and an ensemble of Lucerne Festival Alumni.

A total of 6,200 people attended the events to which tickets were sold: these included nine concerts and the NZZ panel discussion, all of which took place in the KKL Lucerne's Salle Blanche. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra's concert on 15 August was sold out. A total of some 1,200 participants registered for the free events: around 700 people registered for the three city walks to experience the sound installation *The Bells of Lucerne – con sordino* by Peter Conradin Zumthor. In addition, an estimated 250 world music fans enjoyed the groups Chef dé Kef, JMO, and Mirakolo during the "In the Streets" Festival held in Lucerne's Stadthauspark, and approximately 250 more people have shown interest and are expected to attend in the coming days.

The KKL Luzern's health protection guidelines, which followed the regulations from the Swiss Confederation and the Canton for an upper limit of 1,000 persons, were very successfully adopted by the public. Masks to cover nose and mouth, decorated in Festival colors, were distributed free of charge as needed. In advance, program booklets were made available in digital form on the website. The Festival additionally offered introductions to a number of the concerts in the form of audio podcasts, as well as video podcasts of artist interviews.

The Festival started on 14 August. Its new theme, "Life Is Live," was designed to refer to the vibrancy and uniqueness of the live experience of celebrating music with the audience in the KKL Concert Hall as well as in the City of Lucerne. During opening night, Swiss Federal Councillor Alain Berset and Markus Hongler, Chairman of the Festival's Board of Trustees, welcomed the audience. This evening, as well as the concert that followed on 15 August, was performed by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, for this occasion consisting of 35 musicians along with the pianist Martha Argerich. This marked the first time that the orchestra was led by Herbert Blomstedt, who turned 93 this summer. Soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra then performed a chamber music program on the third evening featuring septets by Beethoven and Mozart. Later in the week came the Festival debut of the Lucerne-born tenor Mauro Peter and a recital by this year's winner of the "Credit Suisse Young Artist Award," Valentine Michaud.

Tonight Cecilia Bartoli and her orchestra Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco will appear in concert, and on Saturday and Sunday evenings, respectively, Igor Levit will give two recitals, thus continuing his Lucerne cycle of the complete piano sonatas of Beethoven. The concert by the ensemble of 16 Lucerne Festival Alumni and Valentine Michaud, which will be conducted by Baldur Brönnimann, begins on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Tickets to all of these events are still available. In addition, all three world music groups will perform again today and tomorrow in the Stadthauspark.

The TV broadcast of Beethoven's Third Symphony *Eroica* was seen by more than 370,000 viewers on the arte channel on Sunday evening. Also on Sunday evening, SRF 1 televised Beethoven's First Piano Concerto with Martha Argerich during its *Sternstunde Musik* program. All three concerts by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra are now available to view online on arte.tv, and the entire Opening Concert can be heard online at the Radio SRF 2 Kultur website. The concerts with Mauro Peter, Valentine Michaud, and the Lucerne Festival Alumni will be broadcast by SRF 2 Kultur at a later date.

The charity campaign #SolidarityForMusic was launched on 12 August to support freelance musicians living in Switzerland. To date, a six-figure sum of donations has already been collected. In order to continue gathering even more creative videos and cash donations, the campaign initiated by Lucerne Festival will now be extended until 11 September. The campaign invites people to film their individual interpretations of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* and upload the video on [solidarityformusic.ch](http://solidarityformusic.ch). Such prominent artists as Cecilia Bartoli, Crimer, Sol Gabetta, Stefanie Heinzmann, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, and Francine Jordi are also supporting the campaign as ambassadors.

Press photos may be downloaded at [www.lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos](http://www.lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos)

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