



## Media Release

**Preview of the Summer Festival | 10 August to 12 September 2021**

**The Festival Theme is "crazy"**

**Lucerne Festival Orchestra with Riccardo Chailly and Yannick Nézet-Séguin**

**Lucerne Festival Academy with Heinz Holliger, Lin Liao, Johanna Malangré, David Robertson and Ilan Volkov**

**Rebecca Saunders as Composer-in-Residence, Yuja Wang as "Artiste étoile"**

## Festival to launch with Young Artists

The entirety of our social life has been altered last year, and with it how we perceive and appreciate culture: in short, all the norms have been upended and gone "crazy." This is the theme of the 2021 Summer Festival, in the multifaceted sense of the German word for crazy ("verrückt"), which suggests going mad but also a shifting of paradigms. With the program preview to be published today, Lucerne Festival expects the summer festival to be implemented as planned. Should changes become necessary due to the security situation in connection with the Corona Pandemic, the festival would be prepared. Advance ticket sales for the Summer Festival start on May 17, 2021, and the detailed and extensively commented overall program will be published at the beginning of May.

The focus will be on innovators and revolutionaries in music history, from Bach to Boulez, as well as on such musical milestones as Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du printemps* and works that go beyond "normal" expectations, such as the symphonies of Anton Bruckner. Herbert Blomstedt and the Vienna Philharmonic will take on his Fourth, the *Romantic*; the Royal Concertgebouworkest under the direction of Daniel Harding will perform the Seventh; the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will present the Eighth under Yannick Nézet-Séguin; and the Ninth will be interpreted by the Staatskapelle Berlin and Daniel Barenboim. Three operas with "crazy" plots and protagonists are also on the program: Handel's *Partenope* with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants, Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* with Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra, and Verdi's *Falstaff* with the Budapest Festival Orchestra and Iván Fischer. A cycle spotlighting Robert Schumann, who died in a mental hospital, includes all four symphonies and the violin and cello concertos. They will be performed by Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla with the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg and two Swiss orchestras, each under the baton of their principal conductors: the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich with Paavo Järvi and the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra in its inaugural concert with Michael Sanderling. Kit Armstrong, Patricia Kopatchinskaja in collaboration with Reto Bieri, Luca Pianca, and the narrator Michael Engelhardt together with the pianist Stefan Wirth, respectively, will also put their distinctive stamp on the Festival theme in a series of concerts titled "Verrückt."

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra, led by Music Director Riccardo Chailly, will open the Festival with Mahler's First Symphony and Berg's Three Fragments from *Wozzeck*. Their second evening will pair the First with Mahler's *Rückert Lieder*, featuring Elīna Garanča as the soloist. Together with Denis Matsuev, they will continue the Rachmaninoff cycle they launched in 2019 by performing the Second Piano Concerto and the Second Symphony. Yannick Nézet-Séguin will lead the Lucerne Festival Orchestra for the second time as guest conductor in a program including Bruckner's Eighth Symphony and Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor, with Yuja Wang as the soloist. The Chinese pianist, who as the summer's "artiste étoile," will also be featured with the orchestra in performances including Liszt's First Piano Concerto and Rachmaninoff's Fourth.



And she will join the Mahler Chamber Orchestra in a program that juxtaposes Bach's F minor Concerto, BWV 1056, with Shostakovich's rarely played Second Piano Concerto.

The Berlin Philharmonic will travel to Lucerne with Kirill Petrenko to perform two programs, and the 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic will present an additional evening. The majority of the Berliner Barock Solisten, who will play Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos*, are also members of the Philharmonic. Also appearing are the London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle and Magdalena Kožená, and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra with Daniel Barenboim and Lahav Shani. Among the soloists are the vocal stars Cecilia Bartoli and Juan Diego Flórez, the violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and her colleague Christian Tetzlaff, the cellist Steven Isserlis, and the pianists Yefim Bronfman, Lang Lang, Igor Levit, and Anna Vinnitskaya.

As part of the three-week Lucerne Festival Academy, the concert series "Cosmos Boulez" will be a major focus. On the initiative of Wolfgang Rihm, works by the Academy's founder Pierre Boulez that were withdrawn or remained incomplete during his lifetime will be presented, such as *Polyphony X* and *Poésie pour pouvoir* for tape and three orchestras conducted by Lin Liao and David Robertson. Ilan Volkov will conduct the symphonic concert at the end of this summer's Academy, which will feature works by Stravinsky and Webern and the new piano concerto *to an utterance* by composer-in-residence Rebecca Saunders, which was written for Nicolas Hodges as part of the Roche Commissions. The premiere had to be postponed for one year. The artistic plans and projects of the Lucerne Festival Alumni will be announced in April.

In addition to the world premiere of her new piano concerto, the residency of British composer Rebecca Saunders includes six Swiss premieres: *void* for percussion duo and orchestra, *Nether* for soprano and ensemble, and *The Mouth* for soprano and tape with singer Juliet Fraser. The works of Roche Young Commissions winners Kirsten Milenko and Alex Vaughan will be premiered at the 2021 Academy, with Lin Liao and Johanna Malangré, respectively, conducting each new work. In keeping with the Festival theme, Heinz Holliger will conduct the *Gesänge der Frühe* based on Robert Schumann. In the Composer Seminar led by Wolfgang Rihm, Artistic Director of the Academy, young composers will workshop and present new works.

For the *räsonanz* - Donor Concert, the Festival's collaboration with the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation and Bavarian Radio's *musica viva*, the program includes a world premiere by Iris Szeghy, a work by Miroslav Srnka, Béla Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin*, György Kurtág's *Stele*, and, with a further reference to the summer theme, Aribert Reimann's *Seven Fragments for Orchestra in memoriam Robert Schumann*, which will be performed by the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra and the Zurich Singakademie conducted by Jakub Hruša.

Four of the five concerts originally scheduled as part of the "Beethoven Farewell" Festival, which had to be cancelled in the fall of 2020, have been added on to the summer of 2021 program: the two recitals concluding Igor Levit's Beethoven cycle and the programs "Bye-Bye Beethoven" and "Kreutzer Sonatas" with Patricia Kopatchinskaja.

In the Debut series, eight young artists and ensembles who are on the threshold of an international career will be introduced: the recorder player Lea Sobbe, winner of the Prix Credit Suisse Jeunes Solistes; the violinist Dmitry Smirnov; the pianist Daniel Ciobanu; the violist Timothy Ridout; the pianist Zee Zee; the oboist Salomo Schweizer; the ensemble Connaught Brass; and the Marmen Quartet.



# LUCERNE FESTIVAL

The Festival launches with a focus on the generation of tomorrow and will begin with performances by international youth orchestras and ensembles: the Russian National Youth Orchestra, the Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the ensemble Brass for Africa, as well as the prizewinners of the Swiss Youth Music Competition will be introduced to Festival audiences. The Music Camp in cooperation with Superar Suisse will be held for the third time, this summer under the musical direction of Jessica Cottis and with choreographers Tamara McLorg and Royston Maldoom; in addition, Die Schurken and Taschenoper Lübeck will present family concerts. The programs of the popular "40min" series will be announced along with further details of the summer program in May 2021.

## Summer Festival

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