

Media Release

Lucerne Festival and Ensemble Modern: A Swiss-German partnership to promote the young generation of composers

On 15 February the Ensemble Modern's Frankfurt-based Happy New Ears series for the first time will feature works by five young composers that were developed with Wolfgang Rihm in connection with the Lucerne Festival Academy.

The composers for the Composer Seminar 2022 have been selected.

Lucerne, 10 January 2022. Last summer, the young composers Senay Uğurlu (*1997, Turkey), Lanqing Ding (*1990, China), Daniil Posazhennikov (*1994, Russia), Guillem Palomar (*1997, Spain), and Tyson Gholston Davis (*2000, USA) took part in Wolfgang Rihm's Composer Seminar at the Lucerne Festival Academy. Rihm has since 2016 been Artistic Director of the Academy, which was founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez and Michael Haefliger. The Composer Seminar has since become a firmly established institution, and the Swiss composer Dieter Ammann has for many years supported Wolfgang Rihm by teaching alongside him. In the first part of the seminar, which is open to the public, the young composers will discuss their works as a group. Afterwards, they will rehearse their scores with the musicians who will subsequently perform the new works – as of the summer of 2022, these will consist of the students in the IEMA (Internationale Ensemble Modern Akademie) master's program at Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts, who form the current IEMA ensemble. The conductors of the Conducting Fellowship of the Lucerne Festival Academy will also be involved in the rehearsal process.

On 15 February 2022, five works from Lucerne's Composer Seminar will for the first time be performed as part of the Happy New Ears series at Oper Frankfurt. The Ensemble Modern has opened this series up to the young generation of composers in connection with the International Composer & Conductor Seminars (ICCS) mentoring program. Wolfgang Rihm will himself host the program and introduce these young colleagues. The conductor Maayan Franco, who participated in the Conducting Fellowship in Lucerne in the summer of 2021, will lead the ensemble on this evening.

Wolfgang Rihm, Dieter Ammann, and Festival dramaturge Mark Sattler have already selected eight composers from 134 applications who will participate in the Composer Seminar in 2022. They are Olivia Bennett (*2002, USA), Li Pengyi (*1999, China), Zhenyan Li (1998, China), Minzuo Lu (*1991, China), Aregnaz Martirosyan (*1993, Armenia), Lila Quillin (*1999, USA), Hugo van Rechem (*1996, France), and Raimonda Žiūkaitė (*1991, Lithuania).

15 February | 19.30 | **Happy New Ears** | Frankfurt am Main, Oper Frankfurt

Ensemble Modern

Maayan Franco conductor

Wolfgang Rihm host

Lucerne Festival Academy performs in the Happy New Ears series

Lanqing Ding *Dédale* (2020/2021, German premiere)

Senay Uğurlu *Monachopsis I: Mirror* (2021, German premiere)

Daniil Posazhennikov *forest regression* (2020, German premiere)

Tyson Gholston Davis *Canto II* for ensemble (2020, German premiere)

Guillem Palomar *Hymn* for 11 Musicians (2021, German premiere)

The **Happy New Ears** series is a cooperation between Ensemble Modern, the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts, and Oper Frankfurt. As part of the curtain_call program of the ICCS (International Composer & Conductor Seminars) held by Ensemble Modern and the International Ensemble Modern Academy to promote young composers and conductors. The ICCS are made possible by the Aventis Foundation.

The **Lucerne Festival Academy** was founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez and Festival Director Michael Haefliger. Every summer, young instrumentalists, conductors, and composers convene at the Academy to work with internationally renowned artistic figures on contemporary scores and modern classics. Wolfgang Rihm has served as Artistic Director of the Academy since 2016. Daily rehearsals, workshops, and lessons provide the tools necessary to perform new music. In recent years, at the end of the summer Academy the participants have traveled to give guest performances at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Musikfest Berlin, and the Donaueschinger Musiktage festival.

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