

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Press Kit

2025 SUMMER FESTIVAL

12 August to 14 September 2025

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Media Release

2025 SUMMER FESTIVAL

12 August to 14 September

“Open End” is the theme of Michael Haefliger’s final Summer Festival as Executive and Artistic Director

The Lucerne Festival Ark Nova comes to Lucerne from 4 to 14 September.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will be conducted by Riccardo Chailly, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, and, for the first time, Sir Simon Rattle.

The performance artist Winnie Huang and the violist Tabea Zimmermann will be featured as “artistes étoiles,” while Marco Stroppa is composer-in-residence.

The Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Orchestre de Paris – Philharmonie, Les Arts Florissants, and many more leading international ensembles will make guest appearances in Lucerne.

“Open End” is the theme of Switzerland’s largest classical music festival this summer. Lucerne Festival kicks off on 12 August and runs until 14 September. This will be the last summer edition under the leadership of Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger, who has shaped the Festival’s artistic strategy and programming for 26 years. Over the course of 34 days this summer, about 120 events will take place at the KKL Luzern and other venues. The program offerings include 27 symphony concerts featuring the world’s most renowned orchestras, along with solo recitals, chamber music, family concerts, and events throughout the city. More than 50 events will be offered free of charge. An additional highlight this summer is the Lucerne Festival Ark Nova: the first-ever mobile and inflatable concert hall. Initiated by Michael Haefliger, architect Arata Isozaki, concert agent Masahide Kajimoto, and British-Indian artist Sir Anish Kapoor, it was constructed and used as a venue on four different occasions in Japan between 2013 and 2017. In cooperation with the Swiss Museum of Transport, Lucerne Festival now brings the Ark Nova to Lucerne for a fifth edition. The Ark Nova represents one of the most internationally successful projects during Michael Haefliger’s tenure. Information on the programming that will be presented there and all additional details will be announced in May.

“Open End”: Open-Ended Works, a Tribute to Pierre Boulez, and a Passing of the Baton

This year’s “Open End” Festival theme will be explored from multiple perspectives. The programming features works with an open-ended character – compositions that are part of an ongoing cycle or that have remained unfinished, such as Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 10, which will be performed on Opening Night on 15 August. The “Open End” theme also resonates in the Festival’s focus on Pierre Boulez, founder of the Lucerne Festival Academy, whose 100th birthday is being celebrated with a series titled “Cosmos Boulez.” Throughout his life, Boulez viewed composition as a work-in-progress – an ongoing creative process without a definitive conclusion. In a broader sense, this final Summer Festival under the direction of Michael Haefliger serves to mark not an end but a transition. The Lucerne Festival story will continue under his successor, Sebastian Nordmann, beginning in 2026. Haefliger’s grand farewell celebration, “Les Adieux”, will take place on 14 September and will feature renowned musical companions as well as ensembles he founded – appropriately embracing the “Open End” concept.

Four Star Conductors to Lead the Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Following tradition, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly will open the Festival on 15 August. Elīna Garanča will sing the solo part in Gustav Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*, while the evening begins with a performance by musician and performance artist Winnie Huang, this year's "artiste étoile." Additionally, the program includes Pierre Boulez's *Mémoriale* as a tribute to the founder of the Lucerne Festival Academy. On his second evening with the orchestra, Riccardo Chailly will continue his Rachmaninoff cycle, with pianist Beatrice Rana as the soloist in *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, Op. 43 – a work composed at Rachmaninoff's villa in Hertenstein on Lake Lucerne and performed by the composer himself at the Festival in 1939. This summer, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra also welcomes esteemed guest conductors. Andrés Orozco-Estrada and Yannick Nézet-Séguin return to the podium, while Sir Simon Rattle makes his debut with the orchestra conducting Shostakovich's Symphony No. 1 and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*.

"Artistes étoiles": Winnie Huang and Tabea Zimmermann

Two "artistes étoiles," the German violist Tabea Zimmermann and the Chinese-Australian performance artist and composer Winnie Huang, will showcase the range of their artistry in a number of concerts and projects showcasing their respective works. Zimmermann will perform Dieter Ammann's new viola concerto with the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) and will also appear with soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. With the Mahler Chamber Orchestra she will perform Bartók's Viola Concerto. In addition to her performances at the Opening and at "Les Adieux" on the last day of the Festival, Winnie Huang will perform both in solo pieces and with other soloists from the LFCO. The young musician and performer represents a new generation of artists who have emerged from the Academy's network in recent years and who are now shaping the international contemporary scene. Together with students, Huang is also creating "Sound and the City," a musical tour of Lucerne.

Marco Stroppa, the Lucerne Festival Academy, and 21 World Premieres

The Festival's contemporary music section will once again set important artistic milestones this summer, featuring 21 world premieres and key players from the scene. Italian composer Marco Stroppa will serve as composer-in-residence, establishing another link to Pierre Boulez's 100th birthday. A longtime collaborator of Boulez at IRCAM in Paris, Stroppa has since set new standards in electronic music. Five of his works will be performed at the Festival, including a new version of *Come Play with Me* – the first concerto with an entirely electronic solo part – to be performed with the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO). Additionally, *Spirali* and *La vita immobile* will be performed by the Arditti Quartet. As part of the "Pierre Boulez Workshop," the Festival will present a revival of Boulez's *Poésie pour pouvoir*, for which Stroppa – together with Carlo Laurenzi – has painstakingly reconstructed the electronic component. The performance will be conducted by David Robertson, a trusted colleague of Academy founder Pierre Boulez. Robertson will work with Academy participants and will conduct the LFCO in three concerts this year.

The approximately 100 Academy participants will not only work with David Robertson but also with conductors Vimbayi Kaziboni, Jonathan Nott, and Elena Schwarz. Schwarz, who took part in Bernard Haitink's masterclass at Lucerne Festival in 2016, received key artistic impulses from this experience. At the heart of the Academy, composers Dieter Ammann and Unsuk Chin will once again lead the Composer Seminar, for which eight participants were selected from nearly 300 applications. The Academy's program will include works by Dieter Ammann, Chaya Czernowin, Dai Fujikura, Olga Neuwirth, and the two "Roche Young Commissions" winners, Jakob Raab and Guillem Palomar, among many others. However, this year a special focus will be placed on "Cosmos Boulez," which will celebrate the Academy's founder with performances of some of his most significant works, including

Répons, *Notations* (both in the piano and orchestral versions), and *Figures – Doubles – Prismes*. The annual *raisonanz* – Donor Concert, presented in collaboration with the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, will combine a new tribute to Boulez with vocal works by the composer. The Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Karina Canellakis, will perform *Le Soleil des eaux* and *Don* from *Pli selon Pli*, with soprano Liv Redpath as the soloist. Another highlight of the contemporary music programming will be the world premiere of Esa-Pekka Salonen's new orchestral work featuring the solo horn, written for Stefan Dohr. The composer himself will conduct the performance with the Orchestre de Paris – Philharmonie.

Line-up of Famous Soloists and Orchestras

Once again this summer, the world's most sought-after soloists will gather on the shores of Lake Lucerne for Switzerland's largest classical music festival. The Festival welcomes established stars of the industry, including pianists Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Martha Argerich, Bertrand Chamayou, Seong-Jin Cho, Lang Lang, Igor Levit, Beatrice Rana, Sir Andrés Schiff, and Mitsuko Uchida. The Festival also boasts a stellar lineup of violinists spanning multiple generations, including Lisa Batiashvili, Isabelle Faust, Augustin Hadelich, Janine Jansen, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Daniel Lozakovich, and Anne-Sophie Mutter. Other major soloists featured in this summer's programming include horn players Stefan Dohr and Sarah Willis, soprano Elīna Garanča, mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kožená, cellists Sol Gabetta and Julia Hagen, organist Wayne Marshall, and oboist Albrecht Mayer.

The international orchestras performing at the Festival this summer include the Berliner Philharmoniker and Kirill Petrenko, the Vienna Philharmonic and Franz Welser-Möst, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Klaus Mäkelä, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Vasily Petrenko, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and Daniel Barenboim, the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and Daniel Harding, and the orchestra and choir of Teatro alla Scala and Riccardo Chailly. Three famous French orchestras are part of the program: the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, the Orchestre de Paris – Philharmonie and Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Les Arts Florissants and William Christie. The Lucerne Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Michael Sanderling.

The internationally acclaimed project "The Wagner Cycles" with the Dresden Festival Orchestra and Concerto Köln under the direction of Kent Nagano continues with *Siegfried*. Les Musiciens du Prince – Monaco with Gianluca Capuano and Cecilia Bartoli will present a concert performance of Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* on the KKL stage. And for "Les Adieux," the Festival's final concert, which is also designed as a musical farewell party celebrating Michael Haefliger, numerous prominent artists and ensembles will gather in the KKL Luzern Concert Hall, including, of course, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and an LFCO ensemble.

40min, 20th Anniversary of "In the Streets" and High-Profile Debuts

This summer, there is as usual plenty to explore behind the Festival's main programming. The free 40min series invites visitors to the KKL Luzern on eight evenings, offering a chance to experience Festival artists in a relaxed setting. One of this year's 40min sessions will showcase the Goll Organ in the Concert Hall, while three open-air events will take place on the Europaplatz as part of the 40min Open Air offering. The beloved world music festival "In the Streets" celebrates its 20th anniversary, with performances taking place as usual in public squares across Lucerne's Old Town. The live broadcast of the Opening Concert, "Lakeside Symphony," promises to be a sociable highlight, with Lucerne families and friends enjoying a picnic in Inseli Park, right next to the KKL Luzern, while watching the concert together.

Under the “Music for Future” banner, Lucerne Festival brings rising young stars to the stage and offers special programming tailored to young audiences and their families. The Debut series at the Lukaskirche, which presents young, up-and-coming instrumentalists and ensembles who are gaining international attention, has become a Festival mainstay. The Erinys Quartet, pianists Giorgi Gigashvili and Tamta Magradze, jazz saxophonist Jakob Manz, violinist David Nebel, oboist Gabriel Pidoux, and pianist and winner of this year’s “Prix UBS Jeunes Solistes” Vsevolod Zavidov are among this year’s lineup. The international “Music for Future” project “A Musical Silk Road” opens the Festival on 12 August with a performance by the Worlds Beyond Orchestra, which combines traditional Chinese, Arabic, and Persian music with arrangements and original compositions by saxophonist Daniel Schnyder. On the following day, Sarah Willis returns to Lucerne with the Havana Lyceum Orchestra for “Mozart y Mambo.”

Family Concerts and *Peter Grimes* in a Co-Production with the Luzerner Theater

The Family Concert program in 2025 features “BarkaBach,” a project with Eleonora Savini, Estelle Costanzo, and Téné Ouelgo, and the science fiction opera “Klangmission” (“Sound Mission”) by Taschenoper Lübeck. In addition, more than 20 exclusive school concerts will take place throughout the Lucerne region this year, including visits to schools in Lucerne by four Debut artists and various world music groups from the “In the Streets” festival. This year’s Festival co-production with the Luzerner Theater is Benjamin Britten’s *Peter Grimes*, which will be led by Jonathan Bloxham, with the premiere set for 6 September.

On 11 September, this year’s Swiss Music Prizes will be awarded by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture (BAK) in the presence of Federal Councillor Elisabeth Baume-Schneider. For the first time, the award ceremony will take place as part of Lucerne Festival.

This year’s summer programming has been made possible by the support of more than 50 Sponsors, Foundations, and Patrons and around 400 Friends of Lucerne Festival. We would like to express our deep thanks to all of our Partners and Supporters for their indispensable commitment. This summer, we warmly welcome the Family Schwöbel into the ranks of our Main Sponsors as generous patrons. Additionally, we are delighted about the Jörg G. Bucherer-Foundation’s new commitment as a Concert Sponsor for the Summer Festival.

Dates for online ticket sales: Online ticket sales for the Summer Festival will begin on 18 March 2025 at 12:00 noon (Swiss time). Details of the programming are now available on the Festival website.

Press photos may be downloaded at lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos. Additional media releases about specific sections of the Festival can be found in the press section on the Festival’s website.

Summer Festival

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LUCERNE FESTIVAL

“OPEN END” IS THE THEME

2025 Summer Festival



The focus of this year's Summer Festival is on open-ended, unfinished, or cyclical works - with a special emphasis on the “Cosmos Boulez” to mark the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth

The end of an era, but not the end of Lucerne Festival: Michael Haefliger's final Lucerne Summer Festival

This year's “Open End” theme is reflected in the summer's artistic programming, while at the same time it stands as a tribute to Michael Haefliger's final Summer Festival: after 26 years at the helm, at the end of 2025 he will hand over direction of the Festival to his successor Sebastian Nordmann. The visual designed to illustrate the “open end” theme uses a perpetual circle to typographically convey related ideas of a desire for novelty and movement, a sense of joyful eagerness, and openness for what is to come.

In 2004, the composer Pierre Boulez and Michael Haefliger together founded the Lucerne Festival Academy. The Festival dedicates a series under the rubric “Cosmos Boulez” to this extraordinary figure to mark the occasion of his 100th birthday. Twelve works by Pierre Boulez will be performed during the Summer Festival: by the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) in various formations, at the *räsonanz* - Donor Concert, and by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in the Opening Concert at the very beginning of the Festival. Throughout his life, Boulez viewed composing as a work-in-progress, a creative process with no end point - in other words, an “open end.” Wolfgang Rihm remarked: “I see the trace of an almost compulsive, genuine compositional energy that does not accept closure.” The formal idea of the never-ending spiral is an element typical of many of Boulez's works. He first developed this model in *Poésie pour pouvoir* in 1958 and subsequently in *Répons*. Both works will be performed by the LFCO this summer: *Poésie pour pouvoir* under the direction of David Robertson and *Répons* with Jonathan Nott on the podium.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will open the Summer Festival on 15 August with Gustav Mahler's Tenth Symphony, a work left unfinished by the composer. It was only decades later that the British musicologist Deryck Cooke prepared a viable performing version. Other unfinished works can be found on the Vienna Philharmonic's program, which includes *Symphonic Pieces* from the Opera *Lulu* by Alban Berg and Anton Bruckner's Ninth Symphony, as well as on the Munich Philharmonic's program, which features Franz Schubert's *Unfinished* Symphony.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

The idea of eternity and the eternal cycle of nature is also a recurring theme of the Summer Festival programming. This connotation of “open end” is reflected by Gustav Mahler’s *Rückert-Lieder*, which will also be performed by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly during the Opening Concert, as well as by Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde*, with which Sir Simon Rattle will make his debut with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. The Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra under Keri-Lynn Wilson will also focus on the idea of eternity with Richard Strauss’s *Four Last Songs*, featuring Rachel Willis-Sørensen as the soloist. Other works end with a musical fading out, such as Richard Strauss’s symphonic poem *Don Juan* with the Orchestre de Paris – Philharmonie and Gustav Mahler’s Ninth Symphony, to be performed by the Berlin Philharmonic under Kirill Petrenko.

The 2025 “Open-End Festival” will mark the end of an era as the final Summer Festival of Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger’s tenure. On the last day of the Festival, 14 September, his big farewell party will be celebrated under the rubric “Les Adieux.” Prominent solo artists and orchestras, including the Lucerne Festival Orchestra with Music Director Riccardo Chailly, an ensemble from the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, Sol Gabetta, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Igor Levit, Stefan Dohr, and many others who have been colleagues through the years will gather together. The program will also include world premieres of works by Winnie Huang and Jüri Reinvere. Speeches and messages of greeting will round out this three-hour marathon concert. The detailed program is available online at lucernefestival.ch/les-adioux.

26 Years with Michael Haefliger as Festival Director

Since taking office as Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival at the beginning of 1999, Michael Haefliger has introduced numerous new initiatives that have significantly shaped the Festival’s profile and continue to do so to this day. He expanded the Festival’s commitment to contemporary music and developed new, innovative concert formats such as the 40min series. Since 1999, nearly 400 world premieres have taken place at the Festival, and more than 280 works by contemporary composers have been commissioned. For each Summer Festival, he chose a particular theme to emphasize artistic and socio-political ideas. In 2016, for example, the theme “PrimaDonna” put a spotlight on the role of women in the music world, while in 2022 a focus was placed on the socio-critical theme of “Diversity.” In addition to various initiatives, Michael Haefliger founded the Lucerne Festival Orchestra together with Claudio Abbado in 2003 and the Lucerne Festival Academy with Pierre Boulez in 2004. Following the deaths of the two founders, he ushered in a new era for each of these institutions in 2016 by appointing Riccardo Chailly as the new Music Director of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Wolfgang Rihm as Artistic Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy.

In 2021, Michael Haefliger founded the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO), which also performs abroad at renowned festivals and events. In recent years, Haefliger has additionally launched three new short festivals: “Lucerne Festival Forward” for contemporary music in November, the Spring Festival featuring the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, and Piano Fest in May, which is curated by the pianist Igor Levit.

In the fall of 2013, together with Sir Anish Kapoor and Arata Isozaki, he initiated an innovative social project: Lucerne Festival Ark Nova, a mobile concert hall that was created as a gift for the Japanese population in the area affected by the devastating earthquake of 2011. From 4 to 14 September 2025, the Ark Nova will be on display in Lucerne.

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

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LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

2025 Summer Festival

Four conductors will lead the Lucerne Festival Orchestra: Music Director Riccardo Chailly, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and, for the first time, Sir Simon Rattle.

Appearing as soloists are Seong-Jin Cho, Isabelle Faust, Elīna Garanča, Clay Hilley, Magdalena Kožená, Beatrice Rana, and Tabea Zimmermann.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will present a total of six concerts in the summer of 2025. In addition to five symphony concerts, soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will offer a chamber music program featuring “artiste étoile” Tabea Zimmermann. The orchestra will additionally take part in three 40min events. Music Director Riccardo Chailly will conduct two of the symphony concerts at the beginning of the Festival. Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and, for the first time, Sir Simon Rattle will also lead the orchestra, continuing its tradition of partnering with guest conductors. Audiences can moreover look forward to an additional appearance by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra at “Les Adieux,” the farewell celebration for Michael Haefliger on 14 September.

Following a performance by “artiste étoile” Winnie Huang, Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will open the Festival on Friday, 15 August, with Pierre Boulez’s *Mémoriale*, marking the 100th anniversary of the composer’s birth. This will be followed by an all-Mahler program: in keeping with the Festival’s “Open End” theme, Chailly will pair the *Rückert Lieder*, which are infused with themes of eternity and feature vocal soloist Elīna Garanča, with the unfinished Tenth Symphony in the performing version by Deryck Cooke. As has become customary, the Opening Concert will be broadcast on a large screen in Lucerne’s Inseli Park adjacent to the KKL Luzern as part of the “Lakeside Symphony” series.

Isabelle Faust will perform Antonín Dvořák’s Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53, with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra on 16 August under the baton of Andrés Orozco-Estrada. The concerto will offer a moment of repose framed by Dvořák’s tempestuous *The Noonday Witch* and Modest Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition* in Maurice Ravel’s orchestral arrangement of the original piano score. Having appeared with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in the spring and summer of 2023, Orozco-Estrada will mark his third collaboration with the ensemble on this evening.

For the second of his two symphony concerts, Riccardo Chailly will continue the Rachmaninoff cycle he began with the orchestra in 2019. On 19 August, he will combine two of Rachmaninoff’s early works: *The Rock* and the First Symphony – with the *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, composed in 1934 in Hertenstein on Lake Lucerne. The evening’s soloist will be Italian pianist Beatrice Rana, who has previously performed with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in each of the past two years.

Sir Simon Rattle, whose last appearance at Lucerne Festival was in September 2024 with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, will make his debut at the podium of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra on 23 August. He will conduct Gustav Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde*, the pantheistically orientation of which likewise reflects the Festival’s theme. The soloists for the evening will be Clay Hilley and Magdalena Kožená. The program opens with Dmitri Shostakovich’s First Symphony. For the chamber music Sunday matinee on 24 August, soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and “artiste étoile” Tabea Zimmermann will perform works by Hildegard von Bingen, Sofia Gubaidulina, György Kurtág, and Luciano Berio.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin will lead the final evening featuring the Lucerne Festival Orchestra on 26 August. Following his highly acclaimed performances of Anton Bruckner’s Eighth and Seventh

Symphonies, he now turns to the composer's Fourth Symphony, the *Romantic*. For his fourth guest appearance with the orchestra, Nézet-Séguin will open the program with Ludwig van Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. The soloist will be young South Korean pianist Seong-Jin Cho, who made his Lucerne Festival debut last year when he stepped in on short notice for the ailing Sir András Schiff.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will be featured in three of the 40min events, a free-admission format that takes place before the main concert. On 18 August, orchestra soloists will present "Chamber Music without End" in Lucerne Hall. On 21 and 25 August, Sir Simon Rattle and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, respectively, will offer insights into their rehearsal process with the orchestra.

On 14 September, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will perform one more time to open Michael Haefliger's farewell celebration, "Les Adieux," under the baton of Riccardo Chailly with Gioachino Rossini's Overture to *Il signor Bruschino*. With this "Finale with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra," the programming of which will be kept a surprise until a later date, the orchestra bids farewell to its co-founder, Michael Haefliger.

About the Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Through the founding of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, which made its public debut in August 2003, the conductor Claudio Abbado and the Festival's Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger hearkened back to the legacy of Lucerne Festival's origins in 1938. It was then that Arturo Toscanini brought some of the most celebrated virtuosos of his time together to form an elite orchestra for the legendary "Concert de Gala." Riccardo Chailly has led the orchestra since 2016. Since 2022, in addition to its summer concerts, the orchestra has also been performing as part of the Lucerne Spring Festival. Outside the Festival season, members of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, whose core comes from the ranks of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Filarmonica della Scala, perform as soloists, hold principal positions in renowned orchestras, or teach at conservatories. Until his death in January 2014, Claudio Abbado served as the orchestra's Artistic Director. Following a pandemic-related hiatus from touring, the orchestra returned to international stages in the fall of 2024, making its first international appearances in five years with performances at the Philharmonie in Paris and the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg.

You can find a complete list of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra's concert dates on p. 4 in the Festival program as well as online.

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

Kühne-Stiftung – Main Sponsor and Partner Lucerne Festival Orchestra

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TABEA ZIMMERMANN

“artiste étoile” | 2025 Summer Festival



© Marco Borggreve

The internationally renowned violist Tabea Zimmermann has had an ongoing presence on the world’s leading concert stages for some 40 years. She is acclaimed for her versatility, which will be showcased when she appears in the summer of 2025 as “artiste étoile” at Lucerne Festival, performing in three concerts as part of her residency: On 24 August, she will be joined by soloists from the Lucerne Festival Orchestra for a Sunday matinée chamber music concert featuring works by Hildegard von Bingen, Sofia Gubaidulina, György Kurtág, and Luciano Berio.

On 30 August, she will perform Dieter Ammann’s viola

concerto *No Templates* with the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) under the direction of David Robertson. Following its world premiere in January, this will mark the work’s second performance to date. Two days earlier, on 28 August at 6:20 pm, the musicians and the composer will offer insights into their rehearsal process as part of the 40min free-admission series. Finally, on 4 September, Zimmermann will be the soloist in Bartók’s Viola Concerto, Sz. 120, with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Maxim Emelyanychev. Since Bartók was unable to complete the work before his death, she will play her own performance version, for which she drew on the composer’s original sketches. Zimmermann last appeared at the Lucerne Festival in 2022 with Daniel Harding and the Berliner Philharmoniker.

Born in 1966 in Lahr in Baden, Germany, she studied with Ulrich Koch at the Freiburg University of Music and completed her training in 1986/87 with Sándor Végh at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. An exceptionally versatile musician, she is in high demand around the world both as a soloist and as a chamber music partner. Zimmermann has served as artist-in-residence with such ensembles as the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and since 2022, she has been an Artistic Partner of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Many new works have been composed specifically for her, including pieces by György Ligeti, Heinz Holliger, Wolfgang Rihm, and Georges Lentz.

Contemporary music is a key focus of Zimmermann’s artistic practice. She frequently premieres new compositions and is committed to promoting contemporary music and young musicians through such engagements as her role as a member of the board of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation. She regularly gives masterclasses and is a professor of viola and chamber music at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts. Her extensive contributions have been recognized by numerous awards and honors, including the Hindemith Prize of the City of Hanau, the Frankfurt Music Prize, the Hessian Culture Prize, the Premio dell’Accademia Musicale Chigiana, the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize, and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. Zimmermann’s discography comprises more than 50 recordings, many of which have received high acclaim.

You can find a list of all concert dates featuring Tabea Zimmermann on p. 6 of the Festival program as well as online.

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

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WINNIE HUANG

“artiste étoile” | 2025 Summer Festival



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The violinist, gestural performance artist, composer, and artistic researcher Winnie Huang, who was born in Shanghai in 1986 and raised in Australia, explores the connection between musical sounds and physical gestures in her work. This summer, as “artiste étoile,” she represents a new generation of artists who have emerged in recent years from the Lucerne Festival Academy network and are now shaping the international contemporary music scene. Since 2021, Winnie Huang has been part of the Contemporary Leaders team, contributing to the collaborative and forward-looking direction of Lucerne Festival. She is also a member of the curatorial team for Lucerne Festival Forward and serves as a coach during the Lucerne Festival Academy in the summer. Winnie Huang is the co-director and violinist of the Paris-based ensemble soundinitiative, a member of the curatorial board of Eavesdropping London, and a member of the advisory editorial board of the international magazine *FORUM+*.

She maintains ongoing collaborations with composers such as Liza Lim, Richard Barrett, Kristine Tjøgersen, Charlie Sdraulig, Bernhard Lang, and Clara Iannotta, and works with ensembles including Nadar Ensemble, lovemusic, Down the Rabbit Hole, and Ensemble Linea. Huang regularly appears at such international festivals as Donaueschinger Musiktage, MaerzMusik, ManiFeste, Eavesdropping London, and the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. As a soloist, she has performed at the Berlin Philharmonie, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, and Lucerne Festival. Following several years as a Junior Professor for Artistic Research at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln, Winnie Huang began serving in 2025 as Associate Professor of Research in Music Performance at the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana in Lugano.

Huang’s musical-gestural works form a transdisciplinary thread throughout the 2025 Summer Festival programming. Her new solo performance piece *nexus of now* will frame these appearances: Huang will present an excerpt at the opening of the Festival on 15 August and will give the world premiere on 14 September at Michael Haefliger’s farewell party “Les Adieux.” Audience interaction and close engagement with listeners are central elements of Huang’s artistic practice. From 29 to 31 August, she will present more than 70 short performances of *tend*, a piece specifically developed for her by Charlie Sdraulig, in which she interacts one-on-one with a single audience member. She previously presented this work in November 2021 as part of Lucerne Festival Forward. On 2 September, she will host an interactive event in the 40min series titled *Let’s Play*.

Prior to that, on 22 August, she will launch her residency as “artiste étoile” with the Late Night event “Portrait of Winnie Huang,” performing alongside soloists from the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO). The program includes the world premiere of *To the Gates of Hell, Off course, Of course* by Jessie Marino and Constantin Basica, presented at the Moderne Bar & Karussell, a former cinema in Lucerne. For this venue, Basica has created a new video to be shown in 270° projection. On 13 September, she will appear as a dance-mime performer in the version of Karlheinz Stockhausen’s *Inori* for soloist and tape. This work was first performed at Lucerne Festival in the summer of 2018 and marked a turning point in Huang’s career. Initially joining the Lucerne Festival Academy as an instrumentalist, her experience performing a solo role in *Inori* sparked her deep interest in the

relationship between gesture and sound – an artistic connection she has explored ever since. On 13 and 14 September, she will also design a part of the “Sound and the City” project in collaboration with students from the Hochschule Luzern – Musik.

You can find a list of all concert dates featuring Winnie Huang on p. 14 of the Festival program as well as online.

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

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CONTEMPORARY – LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY

2025 Summer Festival

The “Cosmos Boulez” programming honors the legacy of Pierre Boulez, founder of the Lucerne Festival Academy.

Marco Stroppa is the composer-in-residence for the 2025 Summer Festival.

The Festival programming features 21 world premieres, nine of which will be performed by the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO).

The Lucerne Festival Academy will take place from 15 August to 8 September.

Following the Lucerne Festival Academy’s 20th anniversary last year, this summer’s edition focuses on Pierre Boulez, who co-founded the Academy alongside Michael Haefliger as a central pillar of the Festival. Boulez, who would have turned 100 on 26 March 2025, is an important focus of the Festival’s programming, with twelve of his works being featured – most of which will be performed by the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO). The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will open the Festival on 15 August with Boulez’s *Mémoriale*.

As part of the “Cosmos Boulez” program, several of his most significant works will be performed, including *Notations*, *Figures – Doubles – Prismes*, *Poésie pour pouvoir*, *Répons*, and *Livre pour quatuor*. The Italian composer Marco Stroppa, a longtime colleague of Boulez at IRCAM in Paris, will serve as composer-in-residence for the 2025 Summer Festival. Meanwhile, Winnie Huang, a contemporary artist whose career has been closely associated with the Academy, will be featured in Lucerne as “artiste étoile.” As a Contemporary Leader, she has long been part of the curatorial team for the Forward Festival. She will present two of this summer’s 21 world premieres, including her solo performance *nexus of now* and *To the Gates of Hell*, *Off course*, *Of course* by Jessie Marino and Constantin Basica. The Composer Seminar, a core element of the Academy, will once again be led by Dieter Ammann and Unsuk Chin, with eight young composers selected from nearly 300 applicants. The LFCO will collaborate with soloists Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Maximilian Hornung and “artiste étoile” Tabea Zimmermann, as well as conductors Vimbayi Kaziboni, Johanna Malangré, Jonathan Nott, David Robertson, and Elena Schwarz.

World Premieres at Lucerne Festival 2025

A total of 17 world premieres will be presented as part of the Lucerne Festival Academy. The LFCO will perform nine new works, including compositions by Marco Stroppa, Dai Fujikura, and the two “Roche Young Commissions” winners, Jakob Raab and Guillem Palomar. Additionally, the International Ensemble Modern Academy (IEMA) will premiere eight works composed within the Composer Seminar.

As part of the *räsonanz* – Donor Concert, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Karina Canellakis, will present the world premiere of Robin de Raaff’s new cantata *L’Azur*, dedicated in memoriam to Pierre Boulez. Another contemporary highlight is the world premiere of Esa-Pekka Salonen’s new orchestral work featuring the solo horn, written for Stefan Dohr, for which Salonen himself will conduct the Orchestre de Paris – Philharmonie. Dohr will likewise give the premiere of Jüri Reinvere’s new piece for solo horn at “Les Adieux,” the farewell party for Michael Haefliger, on 14 September.

Marco Stroppa: Composer-in-Residence

As composer-in-residence, Marco Stroppa will play a defining role in this year’s Academy,

contributing five works to the Festival's programming. In collaboration with Carlo Laurenzi, he has also meticulously reconstructed the electronic component for the revival of Boulez's *Poésie pour pouvoir*. Born in Verona in 1959, Stroppa is both a composer and sound researcher. He studied piano, choral music and conducting, composition, and electronic music in Italy before expanding his expertise in cognitive psychology, computer-generated music, and artificial intelligence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). From 1980 to 1984, he collaborated with the Computer Sound Research Center at the University of Padua. In 1982, he accepted an invitation from Pierre Boulez to IRCAM in Paris, where he worked as a researcher and composer before joining the faculty in 1984. He has served as Professor of Composition at the Stuttgart University of Music and Performing Arts since 1999. Stroppa has received numerous accolades, including the 1996 Salzburg Easter Festival Composition Prize, and was featured in the Salzburg Festival's "Next Generation" program in the same year. This summer, the Arditti Quartet will present the Swiss premiere of Stroppa's *Spirali* for string quartet and electronics, along with his *La vita immobile* and Boulez's *Livre pour quatuor*. Additionally, the world premiere of the new version of *Come Play With Me*, a concerto for electronic soloist and orchestra, will be given by the LFCO under David Robertson. The Ensemble Helix will also perform Stroppa's *Osja: Seven Strophes for a Literary Drone*.

The Lucerne Festival Academy and the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO)

Also under the direction of David Robertson, the LFCO will present Dieter Ammann's *No Templates*, a new viola concerto featuring Tabea Zimmermann and Pierre Boulez's *Figures - Doubles - Prismes* and *Poésie pour pouvoir*. Boulez's bold early work *Poésie pour pouvoir*, which combines orchestral sounds with electronics, will be performed for the first time since its 1958 world premiere in Donaueschingen. The performance will take place as part of a workshop concert authorized by Boulez's estate. Alongside Marco Stroppa and David Robertson, another Boulez specialist, Jonathan Nott, will work with the 100 Academy participants. Nott will conduct Boulez's *Répons* and lead the world premiere of Dai Fujikura's *Ritual*. Fujikura's connection to the Academy dates back to 2005, when Pierre Boulez commissioned his first orchestral work, *Stream State*, for the Lucerne Festival Academy. Elena Schwarz, a 2016 alumna of Bernard Haitink's conducting masterclass at Lucerne Festival, will conduct the Swiss premiere of Olga Neuwirth's *Tombeau I* as well as Boulez's *Notations*. Under the direction of Vimbayi Kaziboni, Academy musicians will also work on Galina Ustvolskaya's Symphony No. 2 and Chaya Czernowin's *The Divine Thawing of the Core* (Swiss premiere). The LFCO will perform in eight concerts, will participate in the 40min Open Air, and will appear in two 40min events as well as in concerts at the open-air Buvette in Lucerne's Inseli Park. Additionally, seven brass players from the LFCO will perform Boulez's *Initiale* as part of the "Les Adieux" farewell concert for Michael Haefliger.

The Composer Seminar will once again bring together eight emerging composers, who will work with Dieter Ammann and Unsuk Chin to develop new ensemble pieces. These works will be premiered in the Seminar's closing concert, performed by musicians of the International Ensemble Modern Academy (IEMA) and conducted by participants of the Contemporary-Conducting Program. The partnership with Ensemble Modern, established in 2022, continues this year.

The **Lucerne Festival Academy** was founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez and the Festival's Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger as a master school for contemporary music. The late Wolfgang Rihm had served as Artistic Director of the Academy since 2016. The Academy is designed for instrumentalists, conductors, and composers. Each summer, more than 100 musicians from approximately 30 nations dedicate three weeks to exploring the repertoire of the 20th and 21st centuries. Outside the Summer Festival, the Academy also embarks on annual international tours to renowned venues and festivals.

Complete List of World Premieres

Fri 22.08. | 22.00 | Portrait Winnie Huang | Moderne Bar & Karussell

Soloists of the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) | Winnie Huang performance
Jessie Marino/Constantin Basica *To the Gates of Hell, Off course, Of course* for gestural performer, four violins, two percussionists, 270° video projection, and electronics (Lucerne Festival commission with support from the Fondation Pierre Boulez)

Sat 23.08. | 11.00 | Lucerne Festival Academy 1 | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) | Jonathan Nott conductor | **Augustin Muller/IRCAM** electronics | **Sylvain Cadars/IRCAM** sound diffusion
Dai Fujikura *Ritual* for electronics and ensemble (commissioned by Lucerne Festival and IRCAM-Centre Pompidou with support from the Fondation Pierre Boulez, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, and the Pacific Philharmonia Tokyo)

Sat 23.08. | 21.00 | Lucerne Festival Academy 2 | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) | Participants in the Contemporary-Conducting Program conductors | **Anthony Millet** accordion | **Carlo Laurenzi/IRCAM** electronics | **Augustin Muller/IRCAM** sound diffusion
Marco Stroppa new work for accordion and electro-acoustic totem (commissioned by Lucerne Festival with support from the Fondation Pierre Boulez) | **Charles Kwong** new work for ensemble | **Wei-Chieh Lin** new work for ensemble | **Piyawat Louilarprasert** new work for ensemble | **Alyssa Regent** new work for ensemble (commissioned by Lucerne Festival with support from the Fondation Pierre Boulez)

Sun 24.08. | 15.00 | Composer Seminar: Closing Concert | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

International Ensemble Modern Academy (IEMA Ensemble 2024-25) | Participants in the Contemporary-Conducting Program conductors | **Dieter Ammann** and **Unsuik Chin** moderators
new works for ensemble, world premieres by participants in the 2025 Composer Seminar:
Zixuan Chen, Mikel Iturregi, Egemen Kurt, Joonghyun Lee, Maya Miro Johnson, Jaebong Rho, Agnes Vrânceanu, Julia Constance Wiger-Nordás

Wed 27.08. | 19.30 | *räsonanz* – Donor Concert | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra | Netherlands Radio Choir | Karina Canellakis conductor | **Liv Redpath** soprano
Robin de Raaff *L'Azur*. Cantata for chorus and orchestra on a poem by Stéphane Mallarmé (commissioned by Lucerne Festival and NTR/ZaterdagMatinee with support from the Fondation Pierre Boulez)

Sat 30.08. | 14.30 | Lucerne Festival Academy 3 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) | Michelle Di Russo conductor (Palomar) | **Sebastian Zinca** conductor (Raab)
Guillem Palomar *Tessera* for orchestra | **Jakob Raab** new work for orchestra (commissioned by Roche as part of the "Roche Young Commissions" for Lucerne Festival)

Sat 30.08. | 18.30 | Orchestre de Paris – Philharmonie 2 | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Orchestre de Paris – Philharmonie | Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor | **Stefan Dohr** horn
Esa-Pekka Salonen new work for horn and orchestra (commissioned by Lucerne Festival, Hamburg-Musik GmbH/Elbphilharmonie, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Berliner Festspiele, the Teatro alla Scala, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra)

Sun 14.09. | 15.00 - 18.00 | Les Adieux | KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Stefan Dohr horn | **Winnie Huang** gestural performance

Jüri Reinvere new solo for horn | **Winnie Huang** *nexus of now* for gestural performer and video
(commissioned by Lucerne Festival)

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

Roche - Main Sponsor and Partner Lucerne Festival Academy

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MUSIC FOR FUTURE

2025 Summer Festival

Through its “Music for Future” programming, Lucerne Festival is committed to the sustainable development of classical music and to supporting talented emerging artists on their way – whether as soloists or as members of an orchestra. In addition, special concert formats invite children and young people aged 6 and up to discover the world of classical music. Some of these projects are designed exclusively for school classes from the Lucerne region.

Looking East and West: Music from Beyond Europe to Start Off

Ever since 2021, concerts by youth orchestras and accessible programs aimed at young classical music beginners as well as families have served as a prelude to ring in the Summer Festival before its official opening by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. On 12 August, the Swiss saxophonist and composer Daniel Schnyder will bring together selected prizewinners from the Swiss Youth Music Competition and other European youth competitions to form the Worlds Beyond Orchestra. He invites the audience to undertake a sonic journey with this transnational orchestra along the Silk Road. The program will feature traditional Chinese, Arabic, and Persian music as well as multimedia elements. On 13 August, Mozart meets Cuban music: under the rubric “Mozart y Mambo,” Sarah Willis, a horn player with the Berliner Philharmoniker, and the young musicians of the Havana Lyceum Orchestra, conducted by José Antonio Méndez Padrón, will combine Mozart’s Horn Concerto in D major and his Symphony in B-flat major with traditional and contemporary Cuban music. Residents of Lucerne are invited to come to their warm-up at 10:30 a.m. in Inseli Park right next to the KKL Luzern and shake a leg.

Tomorrow’s Classical Music Stars in the Debut series

The Debut series focuses on young professional soloists and ensembles, each of whom can be heard performing at lunchtime in the Lukaskirche in Lucerne. The Russian pianist Vsevolod Zavidov, winner of the 2025 Prix UBS Jeunes Solistes, will play Franz Liszt’s *Études d’exécution transcendante* on 21 August. The German saxophonist Jakob Manz will present a jazz program on 26 August; his duo partner will be the pianist Johanna Summer, who has performed during all previous editions of Piano Fest with Igor Levit. On 28 August, the French musician Gabriel Pidoux will present a diverse oboe program, while on 2 September the Swiss violinist David Nebel will perform four violin sonatas, some of which were left unfinished – in keeping with the Festival’s “Open End” theme. In addition, the Georgian pianists Giorgi Gigashvili, winner of the German Business Music Prize, and Tamta Magradze, as well as the Erinys Quartet, will be presented to Lucerne audiences on 4, 9, and 11 September, respectively.

Family Concerts and Exclusive School Events for Young Audiences

Numerous educational programs and event formats designed for young festival-goers seek to spark enthusiasm for concert attendance and to create points of contact with classical and contemporary music. On 31 August, the harpist Estelle Costanzo, the violinist Eleonora Savini, and the percussionist Téné Ouelgo, under the direction of Dan Tanson, will stage a Family Concert at Neubad Lucerne that combines classical music with African rhythms and harmonies. On 7 September, the Lübeck Pocket Opera will present “Klangmission” (“Sound Mission”), a science fiction opera that takes Ludwig van Beethoven’s music as its springboard. Both Family Concerts will also be offered as free performances exclusively for school classes from the Lucerne region.

More than 20 events for students will give Lucerne children and young people an insight into the Festival and include a school concert in the KKL Luzern Concert Hall featuring musicians from the Berliner Philharmoniker moderated by Sarah Willis. There will also be two exclusive performances for

school classes by musicians from the Munich Philharmonic. As part of the “Debut in the Schools” project, David Nebel, Giorgi Gigashvili, Tamta Magradze, and the Erinys Quartet will give concerts in selected schools and answer questions from the students, who will then create podcasts about the performances under the guidance of Lucerne Festival. The world music groups appearing in the festival “In the Streets” will also visit various schools in Lucerne. Finally, the project “Sound and the City: Musical Encounters with the City” presented by the Hochschule Luzern – Musik offers three guided tours exclusively for school classes.

Discounts for Young People and Students

Selected concerts are marked by the icon “Look Listen Enjoy – Go to the Concert Together”: For these, adults receive two tickets of equal value to bring young listeners up to the age of 17 with them for free to the concert (children, grandchildren, etc.). Information at: lucernefestival.ch/en/look-listen-enjoy. Students, vocational students, and KulturLegi holders receive discounts at events that are not sold out, and school classes are always welcome at special rates. As part of the “Gschaft!” initiative, Lucerne Festival invites all graduates of Lucerne cantonal and vocational schools to the Summer Festival upon passing their final exams. Detailed information will be available at lucernefestival.ch/en/young-adults as soon as the Festival starts.

Three Sponsorship Awards at Lucerne Festival

The “Prix UBS Jeunes Solistes,” valued at CHF 25,000 and intended to support highly talented young musicians in Switzerland, is awarded every two years and enables up-and-coming talent to perform as part of the Debut series. In alternate years, the “UBS Young Artist Award” is presented to a young person in the music scene who is at the beginning of a promising international career. Finally, the “Fritz Gerber Award” enables three young musicians to participate in the Lucerne Festival Academy every year.

All dates for “Music for Future” events (except Debut concerts) can be found online and in the Festival program starting on page 16.

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

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LUCERNE FESTIVAL

FREE FORMATS

**“Lakeside Symphony,” “In the Streets,” 40min series, Concerts at the Buvette, Post-Concert Talks, Introductions, Live Sessions with Critics, and Organ Tours
2025 Summer Festival**

This summer, Lucerne Festival will again present a wide range of free concerts and events in various locations.

“Lakeside Symphony” is a popular event that attracts Lucerne’s classical music fans to Inseli Park, located right next to the KKL Luzern, for a free live broadcast of the Opening Concert on a large screen. This summer’s “Lakeside Symphony” will take place on 15 August: following a performance by “artiste étoile” Winnie Huang in the open-air, attendees will enjoy the concert by the Lucerne Festival Orchestra featuring works by Pierre Boulez and Gustav Mahler, with Music Director Riccardo Chailly conducting.

In 2025, “In the Streets,” the world music festival within the Festival, celebrates its 20th anniversary and welcomes some familiar faces from previous years as well as many new groups. The line-up of bands and musicians from around the world can be experienced over the course of six days in various squares in Lucerne’s old town, starting on 26 August. All groups will appear at the opening and closing concerts, which will take place on the Europaplatz in front of the KKL Luzern. The world music line-up includes Ayom (Italy/Brazil/Portugal), Claudia Masika & Band (Kenya/Brazil/Senegal/Switzerland), Les Fils Canouche (France), and the Madalitso Band (Malawi), as well as four other groups.

The popular brief format 40min offers an ideal entrée to the world of classical music – traditional and contemporary – by presenting a wide variety of Festival artists who give an overview of their process or who introduce and perform selected works within a 40-minute-long short event. There will be eight such events in the 40min series, all of which take place in the KKL Luzern and begin at 6:20 p.m. – with the exception of 21 August, which will begin at 5:20 p.m. On 23 August, the special 40min Open Air event offers three free afternoon concerts, back-to-back, in the open air on the Europaplatz. One of these is “Symphonic Jukebox,” in which the audience will be invited to decide which works the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) will perform with Joseph Sieber.

The Lucerne Festival Orchestra will appear in three 40min events in the summer: twice as a large ensemble – with Sir Simon Rattle and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, respectively – and once as a chamber music formation featuring selected soloists. Visitors will also have the opportunity to experience both “artistes étoiles.” The violist Tabea Zimmermann will rehearse publicly with the LFCO under the direction of David Robertson, while Winnie Huang will invite the audience to participate under the rubric “Let’s play!” An ensemble from the LFCO and students from the Hochschule Musik – Luzern will present two additional events. This year’s program will be supplemented by a special event in the KKL Concert Hall: a special organ concert featuring Wayne Marshall to mark the 25th anniversary of the Goll Organ.

A valid free ticket is necessary for admission to each 40min event. These free, open-seating tickets can be obtained online from lucernefestival.ch five days before each event. Tickets are limited to two per order. Any remaining tickets will be available on the day of the event.

The free programming is rounded out by introductory talks and conversations presented by Lucerne Festival dramaturge Susanne Stähr, her colleague in the Contemporary division, Mark Sattler, and editor Malte Lohmann. There will also be post-concert talks held in the foyer of the KKL Luzern, as

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

well as concerts by Academy musicians at the open-air Buvette (located in Inseli Park), live sessions with critics, and two tours of the Goll Organ (registration starting in June at lucernefestival.ch).

You can find a listing of all dates and topics in the 40min series online and in the Festival program starting on page 18.

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

UBS - Main Sponsor and Presenting Partner Lakeside Symphony
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LUCERNE FESTIVAL



LUCERNE FESTIVAL ARK NOVA

The inflatable concert hall is coming to Europe from Japan for the first time ever and will be in operation from 4 to 14 September on the grounds of the lakeside Lido meadow at the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne.

Lucerne, 11 March 2025. The Ark Nova will be making its first appearance in Switzerland starting on 4 September as part of Lucerne Festival's offerings. This unique mobile concert hall was developed by the British-Indian artist Sir Anish Kapoor, the late Japanese star architect Arata Isozaki, and Lucerne Festival's Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger. The Ark Nova was conceived in 2011 with the intention of contributing to the cultural reconstruction of northeast Japan in the wake of the catastrophic tsunami that struck the region. It was constructed and put into operation at four different times in Japan between 2013 and 2017. A fifth edition will now take place in Lucerne. Lucerne Festival is bringing the Ark Nova to Europe in cooperation with the Swiss Museum of Transport. This impressive work of art, which is made of elastic plastic tarpaulin, will be constructed on the Lido meadow on the shore of Lake Lucerne.

For an eleven-day period, the Ark Nova will serve as a venue for a variety of concerts and events for audiences of all age groups, in addition to being open to tours. These are meant to complement Lucerne Festival's high-caliber classical programming, which will take place at the same time, until 14 September, at the KKL Luzern on the opposite side of the lake.

The Ark Nova: From Concept to Execution

In the aftermath of the disaster on 11 March 2011 that took place in the Tōhoku region of Japan, architect Arata Isozaki and artist Sir Anish Kapoor, together with Michael Haefliger and concert agent Masahide Kajimoto, came up with the idea of using music to give people courage, hope, and reassurance as they set about reconstructing the region. To this end, Sir Anish Kapoor and Arata Isozaki designed the world's first mobile and inflatable concert hall, the Lucerne Festival Ark Nova. It was first set up and put into operation in Matsushima in 2013, and subsequently in Sendai in 2014, in Fukushima in 2015, and, finally, in the center of Tokyo in 2017. This summer, the Ark Nova can be experienced outside Japan for the first time.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

The Ark Nova: Concert Hall as an Object of Art and Walk-In Sculpture

Arata Isozaki designed the mobile concert hall as a hall comprising several parts. The inflatable shell, designed by Sir Anish Kapoor, is made of elastic, 0.6-mm-thick PVC material, so that the hall can be easily dismantled, transported, and re-erected at different locations. The concert hall will be able to accommodate up to 300 people in Lucerne using flexible seating. The material was cut and welded together in such a way that the walk-in sculpture does not require any additional conventional supporting structure when it is inflated. For visitors, the effect is impressive: they find themselves immersed in an organic space that conveys a sense of security and warmth due to its round, soft forms and special color. The effect of the color varies both inside and outside, depending on the time of day and degree of sunlight.

The Ark Nova to Dock at the Swiss Museum of Transport on Lake Lucerne

The Ark Nova will be shipped from Tokyo to Lucerne, commencing a two-month-long sea voyage to Lucerne in May 2025. The Swiss Museum of Transport is responsible for the construction and logistics, while Lucerne Festival is organizing the artistic programming. Additional details about all related events and ticket sales will be announced in May 2025.

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

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LUCERNE FESTIVAL FRIENDS

The Lucerne Festival Friends Foundation is a charitable foundation established in 1966 with the aim of ensuring the sustainable financing of Lucerne Festival.

Lucerne Festival Friends is a Circle of Friends and Sponsors comprising around 400 members, mostly private individuals, who support Lucerne Festival through their annual contributions. The members come both from Switzerland and from abroad (mainly Europe, the USA, Japan, and Israel).

Their annual contributions are grouped into the following categories:

- Gold: starting at CHF 25,000
- Platin: CHF 12,000
- Silver: CHF 2,500 | Silver Plus: CHF 5,000
- Bronze: CHF 1,750
- Starter: CHF 750 (entry-level option, limited to 2 years)
- Young: CHF 200 (up to age 35)

The Friends' annual contributions add up to more than CHF 1,400,000, plus project-related and general donations.

The benefits of a commitment to become a Friend depend on the category. These include the right to pre-book tickets, invitations to rehearsals and events, personal meetings with Festival artists, access to the Friends Lounge during the Summer Festival, and the opportunity to participate in exclusive music and cultural trips (Hamburg in 2022, Berlin in 2023).

Lucerne Festival is particularly eager to make the Circle of Friends accessible to young adults. The Young Friends are a community of around 30 music-loving young people between the ages of 20 and 35 who each pay an annual contribution of CHF 200. The activities of the Young Friends include joint concert visits (they have access to tickets discounted to CHF 50 for a selection of these concerts) as well as a Young Friends event during the Summer Festival. Young Friends are also invited to all Friends events in order to promote encounters and exchanges between the different generations of Friends.

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Lucerne Festival is especially grateful to the following Friends for their commitment:

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A music-loving couple from Lucerne

...as well as to the “Gold Friends” for their generous support:

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More than 50 Partners and Sponsors show their commitment to Lucerne Festival every year. These include renowned international, national, and regional companies, foundations, and private donors – many of whom have been closely associated with the Festival for decades. Thanks to their contributions, the Festival generated around 47% of its annual budget in 2024. The Festival is 90% self-financed: in comparison with other cultural presenters, this represents one of the highest rates across Europe, hence the contributions by our Partners and Sponsors is vital. Their commitment allows us to bring the finest orchestras, most celebrated conductors, and highly sought-after soloists to Lucerne every year as well as to realize unique projects.

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Our Main Sponsors are committed as long-term partners of Lucerne Festival to sustainably promoting the development and realization of specific artistic concepts. Together we make unique projects possible and ensure great musical experiences.

The non-profit **Kühne Foundation** has been supporter of Lucerne Festival since 2008 and became Main Sponsor in 2020. Classical music projects are the focus of the Kühne Foundation's cultural sponsorship activities. The Foundation supports a number of renowned festivals, opera houses, and concert halls. Its cooperation with Lucerne Festival centres on supporting the Lucerne Festival Orchestra.

Roche is committed as a Main Sponsor and Partner of the Lucerne Festival Academy. Each year it awards commissions for compositions, alternating between the "Roche Young Commissions" and the "Roche Commissions" series. The first-named series, which has been taking place for over ten years, awards commissions to two young emerging composers, who each create an orchestral work over a two-year period. During the 2025 Summer Festival, the new works by "Roche Young Commissions" composers Guillem Palomar and Jakob Raab, will receive their world premieres.

Family Schwöbel has been closely connected with Lucerne Festival for over 30 years. Alongside their long-standing philanthropic support of the Summer Festival and the Lucerne Festival Academy, the family has also contributed to several important key initiatives for young musicians and contemporary music. This year, they will once again support a special project during the Summer Festival. Lucerne Festival is deeply grateful to welcome the Schwöbel family, devoted patrons for many years, among its main sponsors.

UBS and Lucerne Festival share a close and multifaceted partnership. As Main Sponsor of the Summer Festival, UBS makes the Vienna Philharmonic's annual symphony concerts possible. Furthermore, UBS supports the "Lakeside Symphony," the popular live public streaming of the Opening Concert at the Inseli park in Lucerne. UBS also fosters the careers of young, highly talented musicians by awarding two annually alternating prizes: the "UBS Young Artist Award" and the "Prix UBS Jeunes Solistes."

Zurich Insurance has been committed to Lucerne Festival since the 1990s and has been Main Sponsor of the Summer Festival since 2005. As Partner of the free-admission "40min" series, Zurich emphasizes its conviction that music has the power to energize society and that it should be accessible to everyone. As part of Zurich's "Classical Music for All" theme, the 40min Open Air event will take place for the third year this summer on the Europaplatz, presenting three multi-faceted acts in rapid succession. Zurich also supports Lucerne Festival as a Climate Partner in implementing its sustainability strategy.

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