

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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