

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

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Contacts for Press and Public Relations

Nina Steinhart, Head of Public Relations | n.steinhart@lucernefestival.ch | T +41 (0)41 226 44 43

Sereina Kubli | s.kubli@lucernefestival.ch | T +41 (0)41 226 44 59

www.lucernefestival.ch