

TABEA ZIMMERMANN

“artiste étoile” | 2025 Summer Festival



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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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