

## 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](http://lucernefestival.ch/en/press/photos)

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