

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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