

LUCERNE FESTIVAL



SPRING FESTIVAL

11. – 13.04.2025

**Lucerne Festival Orchestra | Riccardo Chailly |
Mao Fujita | Alexander Malofeev**

Program

Main Sponsor

Jörg G. Bucherer-Foundation

BEETHOVEN IN THE ORIGINAL

Performing Ludwig van Beethoven's symphonies is not so easy. They rank among the most frequently played works in the repertoire and have been recorded countless times. Approaching them today means grappling not only with the original score but, inevitably, with a weighty history of interpretation. Riccardo Chailly, Music Director of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, has been intensively involved with Beethoven's symphonic legacy since very early on and has thus struggled with it over a long period. "At first, I, too, followed the familiar models, but a feeling of frustration increasingly grew inside me," he observes. Which is why Chailly eventually decided to make a radical U-turn and take Beethoven at his word. So he began performing these works exactly as they are notated in the scores. In other words, he simply stopped using the performance traditions that had developed around the symphonies over the past two centuries as his guide.

At the 2025 Spring Festival, you can experience the astonishing result with respect to two of Beethoven's most-famous symphonies: the *Pastoral* and the legendary Ninth. The most striking aspect you will notice is

the fast tempi. Chailly consistently uses Beethoven's original metronome markings, which were long discredited by posterity as "wrong." In the *Pastoral*, for example, as he explains: "You have to play the first and second movements almost twice as fast as is customary. The surging waters sound more turbulent than usual — which initially catches the audience off guard." But this makes that "old acquaintance" Beethoven seem refreshingly new.

Chailly also proves that he is a savvy explorer in his choice of the two pianists he has engaged to shape the Spring Festival in 2025. The Japanese pianist Mao Fujita and the Russian pianist Alexander Malofeev were known only to insiders before Chailly introduced them to the international classical music community in recent years over the course of his Rachmaninoff cycle in Lucerne. Fujita will perform Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, which, for all its virtuosity, is really about fine nuances and a lyrical sound world. And Malofeev will give a solo recital featuring music by composers from Schubert to Scriabin, offering everything possible on the 88 keys, from deep introspection to extroverted sonic outbursts.



Riccardo Chailly | Lucerne Festival Orchestra



Alexander Malofeev



Mao Fujita

BACK TO NATURE

The public image shows Beethoven with wildly unkempt hair and a stern, determined look, his chin aggressively thrust forward. Works such as the *Eroica* and the Fifth Symphony, which depict the heroic struggle against adversity and fate, mirror this perfectly. But there is another Beethoven as well: the artist who wrote happy and serene music. To open the Spring Festival, Riccardo Chailly and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra will introduce the “Titan” in this much more cheerful aspect. The 26-year-old Japanese pianist Mao Fujita, who became a regular guest following his brilliant Festival debut in Rachmaninoff’s Second Piano Concerto in the summer of 2022, will play the Fourth Piano Concerto, a work about sensitive feelings and a beguiling lyricism that can calm even the wild Furies. Beethoven’s love of nature is evident in his Sixth Symphony, the *Pastoral*, which invites us on a five-movement excursion into the countryside, complete with birdsong, murmuring streams, folk dancing, and even a violent thunderstorm. But the latter soon passes, giving way to a hymn of thanks from the shepherds – perhaps the most beautiful and unforgettable melody Beethoven ever composed.

Fri 11.04.

Beethoven’s *Pastoral*

19.30

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Riccardo Chailly conductor

Mao Fujita piano

Ludwig van Beethoven

Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major,

Op. 58

35 min

Symphony No. 6 in F major, Op. 68

Sinfonia pastorale

40 min

Introduction to the Concert

18.30 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium

with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

CHF 240/200/150/100/60/30

EAST MEETS WEST

Talk about a magical moment! On 20 August 2024, the 23-year-old Alexander Malofeev sat down at the grand piano in the KKL Luzern Concert Hall and plunged fearlessly into the depths with the cascading chords that open Rachmaninoff's First Piano Concerto – and you could sense everyone present holding their breath. But Malofeev had no need of a safety net, for he mastered the most intricate passages with bravura, even exploring delicate nuances. Instead of merely pounding the piano, he proved himself to be a poet in total control of the keyboard. We immediately invited him back, which is why he will now introduce himself at the Spring Festival with his debut solo recital in Lucerne. Malofeev, half of whose family comes from southern Russia and the other half from Ukraine, has been living in exile in Berlin since 2022. His program seeks to bridge the gap between East and West. Schubert's Piano Pieces, which are alternately agitated and contemplative, meet Kabalevsky's playful, nimble Third Piano Sonata. The second half of the program will juxtapose the intense virtuosity of Liszt's great funeral march *Funérailles* with Scriabin's heaven-storming Op. 28 *Fantaisie*.

Sat 12.04.

Recital Alexander Malofeev

18.30

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Alexander Malofeev piano

Franz Schubert

Three Piano Pieces, D 946

25 min

Dmitry Kabalevsky

Piano Sonata No. 3 in F major,

Op. 46

15 min

Leoš Janáček

In the Mists

15 min

Franz Liszt

Funérailles, S 173, no. 7

12 min

Alexander Scriabin

Four Préludes, Op. 22

5 min

Fantaisie in B minor, Op. 28

11 min

CHF 90/60/30

JOY, JOY!

An entire mythology has grown around Beethoven's Ninth. It was the first symphony to include human voices as part of the score. Because it seemed impossible to compete with, the ensuing generation of composers hardly dared undertake writing their own symphonies. Its ingenious structure combined with music that directly touches the heart leaves audiences unable to hold back their amazement. The Ninth conveys a global political message, insisting that we all become brothers and sisters: "Be embraced, ye millions!" And it is probably the single most famous work of classical music: the joyful melody that Beethoven intones in the finale encourages us to sing along and even became a pop hit as *Song of Joy*. No wonder this symphony is played so often when something extraordinary happens: at memorial services and state ceremonies or at events like the fall of the Berlin Wall, the unification of Europe, the Olympic Games, and, of course, New Year's Eve. But nothing matches the experience of hearing the Ninth performed by an ensemble as excellent as the Lucerne Festival Orchestra under a Beethoven connoisseur like Riccardo Chailly. The Festival year could not get off to a better start.

Sun 13.04.

Beethoven's Ninth

17.00

KKL Luzern, Concert Hall

Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Riccardo Chailly conductor

MDR Rundfunkchor

Howard Arman chorus master

Regula Mühlemann soprano

Marie-Claude Chappuis alto

Benjamin Bruns tenor

Markus Werba baritone

Ludwig van Beethoven

Symphony No. 9 in D minor,

Op. 125

65 min

This concert has no intermission.

Introduction to the Concert

16.00 | KKL Luzern, Auditorium

with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

CHF 240/200/150/100/60/30

THANK YOU!

Great musical experiences need strong partners! We are deeply grateful to all those who support and promote the Spring Festival for their indispensable commitment.

Main Sponsor

Jörg G. Bucherer-Foundation

Partner

Dätwyler Stiftung

Cooperation Partners

Canton of Lucerne | KKL Luzern, Event Partner | Luzern Tourismus | MetaDesign, Partner in Communication | Radio SRF 2 Kultur, Media Partner

Many thanks also go to the Lucerne Festival Friends and to all those supporters who do not wish to be mentioned by name.

Lucerne Festival is a member of



MUSIKSTADT
LUZERN.
Das Klingt fantastisch.



Mobility Partner



LUCERNE FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Support Lucerne Festival and enjoy many benefits:

- invitations to Friends events including rehearsals, meetings with artists, and concert introductions
- access to the Friends Lounge during the Summer Festival
- priority booking
- organized Friends trips featuring an exclusive cultural program

Become part of our international patrons' community of music enthusiasts.
We look forward to meeting you!

Please contact us for more information

Isabelle Köhler
t +41 (0)41 226 44 52
friends@lucernefestival.ch
lucernefestival.ch/friends

YOUNG FRIENDS

Join us up to age 35!



Artist Talk with members of the Lucerne Festival Orchestras

BOARDS

FOUNDATION LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Board of Trustees

Markus Hongler, Chairman*
Dr. Christian Casal, Treasurer*
Dr. Rolf Dörig*
Dr. Christoph Franz
Regula Gerber
Andrea Gmür-Schönenberger
Dr. Armin Hartmann
Dr. Christian Keller
Walter B. Kielholz*
Dr. Hariolf Kottmann
Michel M. Liès

Giovanna Maag
Anne-Sophie Mutter
Prof. Klaus Schwab
Anne Schwöbel*
Isabelle Welton*
Beat Züsli
* Committee

Honorary Chairman

Jürg R. Reinshagen

FOUNDATION LUCERNE FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Board of Trustees

Markus Hongler, Chairman
Dr. Christian Casal, Treasurer
Dr. Franz Egle
Andrea Gmür-Schönenberger
Elisabeth Oltramare

EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Michael Haefliger

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Michael Haefliger
Danièle Gross
Christiane Weber

Publishing Credits

Publisher Foundation Lucerne Festival | Executive and Artistic Director: Michael Haefliger
Hirschmattstrasse 13 | P.O. Box | CH-6002 Luzern
t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | info@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch

Content and Editing Susanne Stähr, Malte Lohmann

English-Language Editor and Translator Thomas May

Proofreading Antje Reineke

Layout and Realization Flavia Gämperle

Printing Engelberger Druck AG, Stans

Photos Priska Ketterer/Lucerne Festival (cover, Chailly & Lucerne Festival Orchestra) - Liudmila Malofeeva (Malofeev) - Peter Fischli/Lucerne Festival (Fujita) - Patrick Hürlimann/Lucerne Festival (Friends)

This program was published in October 2024 and is subject to alteration without prior notice.
Printed prices are subject to correction.



TICKETING INFORMATION

Online ticket sales begin on 12 November 2024, 12.00 noon (Swiss time)

Mail sales begin on 13 November 2024

Telephone sales begin on 13 November 2024

Mon–Fri from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon (Swiss time)

also from 2.00 to 4.00 pm between 15 and 17 November 2024

during our festivals always from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon (Swiss time) and from 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Ticket sales at the Lucerne Festival ticket window Tickets will be available for purchase at the Lucerne Festival ticket window near the main entrance of the KKL Luzern (on the lakeside) between 11 and 13 April 2025, daily from 2.00 pm until the evening's concert begins.

The Festival Package for Classical Music Fans If you purchase tickets for all three Spring Festival events by 31 March 2025, you will receive a 5% discount compared to the prices for a single ticket in the categories 1–3.

Please note: KKL vouchers will no longer be redeemable with us starting in September 2024.

Please see the General Terms and Conditions of Lucerne Festival at lucernefestival.ch/en/agnb.

Sales & Visitor Services

Lucerne Festival | P.O. Box | CH-6002 Luzern

t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | ticketbox@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch

Sat 12.04.

Preview of the Summer Festival

16.00–17.00

KKL Luzern, Auditorium

with **Susanne Stähr** (in German)

Free tickets at
lucernefestival.ch/overview

One summer — and more than a hundred events! Which should you choose? Festival dramaturge Susanne Stähr introduces the entire program, from glamorous concerts to insider tips, and reveals what she is particularly looking forward to. She will also be sure to share an assortment of colorfully intriguing stories and offer glimpses behind the scenes of the Festival.

LUCERNE FESTIVAL

TICKET ORDER FORM

Spring Festival | 11–13 April 2025

Online ticket sales begin on 12 November 2024, 12.00 noon (Swiss time)

Mail and telephone sales begin on 13 November 2024

	Time	Concert	No. of tickets	Ticket price	Total
Fri 11.04.	19.30	Beethoven's <i>Pastoral</i>			
Sat 12.04.	18.30	Recital Alexander Malofeev			
Sun 13.04.	17.00	Beethoven's Ninth			
		Processing fee			CHF 10
		Total amount CHF			

The Festival Package for Classical Music Fans

If you purchase all three Spring Festival events together by 31 March 2025, we will give you a 5% discount compared to individual ticket prices in the categories 1–3.

Number of Festival packages: _____

Category (each order has a processing fee of CHF 10):

1 CHF 542 **2** CHF 437 **3** CHF 314

Second choice (please check)

If no other seat is available, I would like to choose the

next highest category next lowest category

Customer Information

Last name/First name

Street address

Postal code/City/Country

Telephone

E-mail

Date

Signature

Invoice

We will send you an invoice indicating the amount due plus a processing fee of CHF 10. If you prefer to pay the amount by credit card, please notify us by phone after receiving the invoice at +41 (0)41 226 44 00. Due to reasons of data protection, we cannot accept credit card details in writing.

Lucerne Festival

Sales & Visitor Service | P.O. Box | CH-6002 Luzern
t +41 (0)41 226 44 00 | ticketbox@lucernefestival.ch | lucernefestival.ch