



## Introducing the internationally renowned symphonic heart of Lucerne Lucerne Symphony Orchestra's 2023/24 Season



The Lucerne Symphony Orchestra – at the KKL  
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The Lucerne Symphony Orchestra has been delighting music lovers in Lucerne and around the world for over 200 years. As the oldest symphony orchestra in Switzerland, it has achieved international recognition far beyond its borders, and embodies a wonderful blend of tradition and innovation.

From its humble beginnings in 1806, the orchestra has grown into a 74-piece ensemble of international renown, comprising first-class musicians from around 20 nations. With strong ties to the region while being internationally oriented, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra represents the musical city of Lucerne on international tours. During their last season, three concert tours took the orchestra beyond the borders of Switzerland, first to Germany, including a “*phenomenal*

*debut*” at the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie (in the words of the *Hamburger Abendblatt*), then onwards to Asia with stops in Thailand and South Korea, before heading to South America with concerts in São Paulo, at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro.

The history of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra began in the “**Comödiensaal der Jesuiten**”. Since 1998, the **Lucerne Culture and Congress Centre (or KKL for Kultur- und Kongresszentrum Luzern)**, designed by the French star architect Jean Nouvel, has been the headquarters of the orchestra. Not only does this centre showcase innovative architecture and outstanding, internationally-loved acoustics, but it also boasts a unique panoramic location directly on Lake Lucerne. Together with the **Orchesterhaus “am Südpol”** which opened in 2020, largely thanks to Artistic Director Numa Bischof Ullmann, forms ideal conditions for the ensemble; especially since the Orchesterhaus includes a tuning room, cloakrooms, administrative offices, spaces for chamber music and musical education work, as well as a rehearsal hall with 5,000 cubic meters of studio-quality space (used for recordings). It is an environment in which Lucerne will continue to thrive in the coming years. Being in the immediate vicinity of the **Music College** also enables small-scale collaborative projects, which include family and school class concerts in the 2023/24 season – and, of course, the traditional soloist concert by college graduates at the end of the season (June 26th).

Various conductors have shaped the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra over time. These include greats like Willem Mengelberg, Marcello Viotti, Jonathan Nott and James Gaffigan. In 2021, **Michael Sanderling** took the helm as the orchestra's Chief Conductor and has since led the orchestra towards the symphonic future and beyond.

The Lucerne Symphony Orchestra gets off to a brilliant start in the **new 2023/2024 season** on October 18th with Richard Strauss' monumental Alpine Symphony and his rarely performed masterful Violin Concerto with the French world-class violinist Renaud Capuçon as soloist.

On the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> November another violin star will take the KKL stage: the American Joshua Bell will perform and conduct Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's popular Violin Concerto in E minor, as well as conducting Mendelssohn's music for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and Beethoven's Fourth Symphony.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra travels to **Vienna for a guest performance, its debut at the Wiener Konzerthaus**. The program will include Dmitri Shostakovich's weighty Symphony No. 10, accompanied by the animated film "Oh to Believe in Another World" by the South African artist William Kentridge.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the orchestra and Michael Sanderling return to Lucerne to perform with the star soprano **Chen Reiss**, who will sing a concert aria by Mozart, and the pianist **Martin Helmchen**, who will offer an interpretation of Mozart's D minor piano concerto.

In addition to established stars, the spotlight falls on the younger generation of professional musicians in Lucerne. As part of the **"Rising Stars" concert series**, conductor **Duncan Ward**, pianist **Anna Tsybuleva**, trumpeter **Simon Höfele** and cellist **Anastasia Kobekina** will appear in Lucerne on December 17<sup>th</sup> and will perform works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Helena Winkelmann, Antonio Vivaldi and Antonín Dvořák.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, Lucerne will welcome in the New Year with the sound of the harp: the famous harpist **Xavier de Maistre** will perform Joaquín Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez" under the direction of **Bertrand de Billy**, alongside orchestral works by Richard Strauss and Maurice Ravel. There will be a magnificent firework display immediately following the New Year's concert, lighting up the city and Lake Lucerne in an array of colours.

Just two weeks after the New Year's concert, the star pianists of the international music scene will once again be at the **Piano Festival "Le Piano Symphonique"**. This year, the festival has a special surprise in store, because from 2024 the legendary pianist **Martha Argerich** will become the "Pianiste Associée" of the piano festival. This should mean that Lucerne - which is already recognized worldwide - will finally become the indisputable "capital of the piano", as the NZZ put it. The two "Grandes Dames de Piano", **Martha Argerich** and **Maria João Pires**, will open the festival with a concert on January 16<sup>th</sup>, followed by performances by international piano greats such as **David Fray**, **Elisabeth Leonskaja** and **Benjamin Grosvenor**, alongside others top soloists from the international music scene, such as the violinist **Janine Jansen**, the cellist **Mischa Maisky** and the tenor **Daniel Behle**.

The oldest orchestra in Switzerland has so much to offer in the 2023/24 season. The heart of symphonic music beats in Lucerne, a city that has captivated musicians such as Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Sergei Rachmaninov and Herbert Blomstedt for over 200 years, and inspires new visions of the musical future.

**Current recording:** Brahms The Four Symphonies (5 CDs, Warner Classics, April 2023)

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