

A week of (pianistic) bliss

Lucerne's piano festival «Le Piano Symphonique» with Martha Argerich as «Pianiste Associée» from 2024



The piano festival "Le Piano Symphonique" of the Luzerner Sinfonieorchester is to take place in 2024 for what is already the third time.

And it will have a real sensation in store: from 2024, the legendary pianist **Martha Argerich** will be "**Pianiste Associée**" of the piano festival, which will run from **16 to 21 January 2024** on the banks of Lake Lucerne. This will go towards definitively justifying Lucerne's reputation as the "**piano capital**" – the title given to the city by the Swiss daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung – in the eyes of the entire world.

As "**Pianiste Associée**", **Martha Argerich**, who has had a friendly association with the Luzerner Sinfonieorchester and its artistic and executive director, Numa Bischof Ullmann, for years, will play a key role in the piano festival "Le Piano Symphonique": *"I am delighted to become 'Pianiste Associée' of the new festival 'Le Piano Symphonique' in Lucerne. At the last festival in 2023, I had a wonderful time and was very happy. It was a week of true pleasure, really very special. The invitation by the artistic director, Numa Bischof Ullmann, to take on a key role in this festival in future appealed to me straight away. We are going to put on exceptional programmes; there will be surprises and much joy for everyone."*

The term "associée" can be taken very literally here: it underlines Martha Argerich's long-term involvement, while also pointing to her performances together with other pianists at the piano festival. Her appointment thus opens up completely new possibilities and facilitates top-flight pianistic collaborations at the piano festival "Le Piano Symphonique". Martha Argerich will perform in duos on Jan. 16 and on Jan. 19 – in the latter case with **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** as a premiere on the big stage –, in a piano trio (Jan. 17) and in a "Carte blanche" concert. This will be in the midst of an illustrious circle of outstanding pianists, including, on three days, **Maria João Pires** (Jan. 16, 18 & 20) in a solo recital, in four-handed duos with Argerich and **Elisabeth Leonskaja** and in Schubert's Winterreise with Matthias Goerne. Leonskaja (Jan. 17 & 18) will play Grieg's piano concerto as well as performing in the four-handed duo with Pires, a premiere. A number of leading pianists of the next generation, such as **David Fray** (Jan. 17), **Benjamin Grosvenor** (Jan. 19), **Oliver Schnyder** (Jan. 18) and **Kit Armstrong** (Jan. 19 & 20) will also cast a pianistic enchantment over Lucerne from 16-21 January 2024. World-famous greats such as violinist **Janine Jansen** and **Mischa Maisky** on the cello (Jan. 17) will provide complementary chamber music in the programme "L'Art du Trio avec Piano".

The **Luzerner Sinfonieorchester** under its **chief conductor, Michael Sanderling**, will perform both piano concertos by Franz Liszt (Jan. 17 and 18) and his "Totentanz" with **Yoav Levanon** (rising star at "Le Piano Symphonique" in 2023), also recording the works for **Warner Classics**.

The 14-year-old French pianist **Arielle Beck** will also be presented as the "2024 Discovery" of the festival (Jan. 19).

Two **compositions commissioned** from **Marc-André Hamelin** (Jan. 20) and **Brett Dean** (Jan. 19) that are to be **premiered at the festival** in January 2024 will show that "Le Piano Symphonique" is very much in tune with the here and now, the present day.

The well-known piano journal "Piano News" recently wrote: "*It is beyond all question that 'Le Piano Symphonique', with its exciting and varied programmes, has a great future ... it is a boon for all lovers of the piano who like discovering the unusual and are willing to take the trip to lovely Lucerne to do so.*"

Take this unique opportunity to experience artists of world renown and international status at close hand – at the **KKL Luzern**, in the **Orchesterhaus** of the Luzerner Sinfonieorchester in Kriens, in the awe-inspiring **Lukaskirche** and in the stylish **Hotel Schweizerhof**.

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Piano festival Lucerne «Le Piano Symphonique» Events 16-21 January 2024 (short programme overview)

* TUESDAY *

16 January 2024 | 7 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL

Opening concert

Mario João Pires *piano*

Works by Debussy, Mozart & Schubert

16 January 2024 | 9:30 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL

Martha Argerich & Maria João Pires *piano*

Works by Mozart & Schubert

* WEDNESDAY *

17 January 2024 | 12:30 p.m. | Lucerne | Lukaskirche

David Fray *piano*

Works by Schubert

17 January 2024 | 7 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL

Yoav Levanon *piano*

Elisabeth Leonskaja *piano*

Luzerner Sinfonieorchester

Michael Sanderling *Chief conductor*

Works by Liszt (Levanon) & Grieg (Leonskaja)

17 January 2024 | 9 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL

Martha Argerich *piano*

Janine Jansen *violin*

Mischa Maisky *cello*

"L'Art du Trio avec Piano"

The programme will be announced at a later time.

* THURSDAY *

18 January 2024 | 12:30 p.m. | Lucerne | Lukaskirche

Oliver Schnyder & Daniel Behle

„made in Switzerland“

Works by Mendelssohn, Schubert, Liszt and Strauss

18 January 2024 | 7 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL

Yoav Levanon *piano*

Luzerner Sinfonieorchester

Michael Sanderling *Chief conductor*

Works by Liszt and Wagner

18 January 2024 | 8:30 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL

Surprise

18. Januar 2024 | 21 Uhr | Luzern | KKL

Elisabeth Leonskaja *piano*

Works by Schumann

Elisabeth Leonskaja & Maria João Pires *piano*

Works by Schubert

* FRIDAY*

19 January 2024 | 12:30 p.m. | Lucerne | Lukaskirche
Benjamin Grosvenor *piano*

Works by Schumann, Dean (premiere) & Liszt

19 January 2024 | 4:30 p.m. | Lucerne | tba
"Discovery 2024"
Arielle Beck *piano*

19 January 2024 | 7 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL
Jean-Yves Thibaudet *piano*

Debussy Préludes Books 1&2

19 January 2024 | 9 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL
Martha Argerich & Jean-Yves Thibaudet *piano*

19 January 2024 | 9:30 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL
Kit Armstrong *organ*

Liszt Fantasy and Fugue on the chorale "Ad nos, ad salutarem undam"

* SATURDAY *

20 January 2024 | 12:30 p.m. | Lucerne | Lukaskirche
Kit Armstrong *piano*

Liszt 12 Transcendental Études

20 January 2024 | 4:30 p.m. | Lucerne | Café
Kunstmuseum
Panel/Colloquium with Kit Armstrong

20 January 2024 | 6 p.m. | Lucerne | Luzerner Saal (OH
Kriens)

Performance by Lucerne School of Music with around 100 pianists.

20 January 2024 | 7 p.m. | Lucerne | KKL
Yoav Levanon *piano*

Liszt Totentanz
Hamelin "Hexensabbat" ("Witches' Sabbath") (world premiere)

Matthias Goerne & Maria João Pires
Schubert Die Winterreise op. 89, D 911

20 January 2024 | 9:30 Uhr | Lucerne | KKL
Martha Argerich *piano*

Carte blanche

The programme will be announced at a later time.

* SUNDAY *

21 January 2024 | 11 a.m. | Lucerne | Schweizerhof
Llŷr Williams *piano*

Works by Schubert/Liszt & Wagner/Liszt

FURTHER INFORMATIONEN

