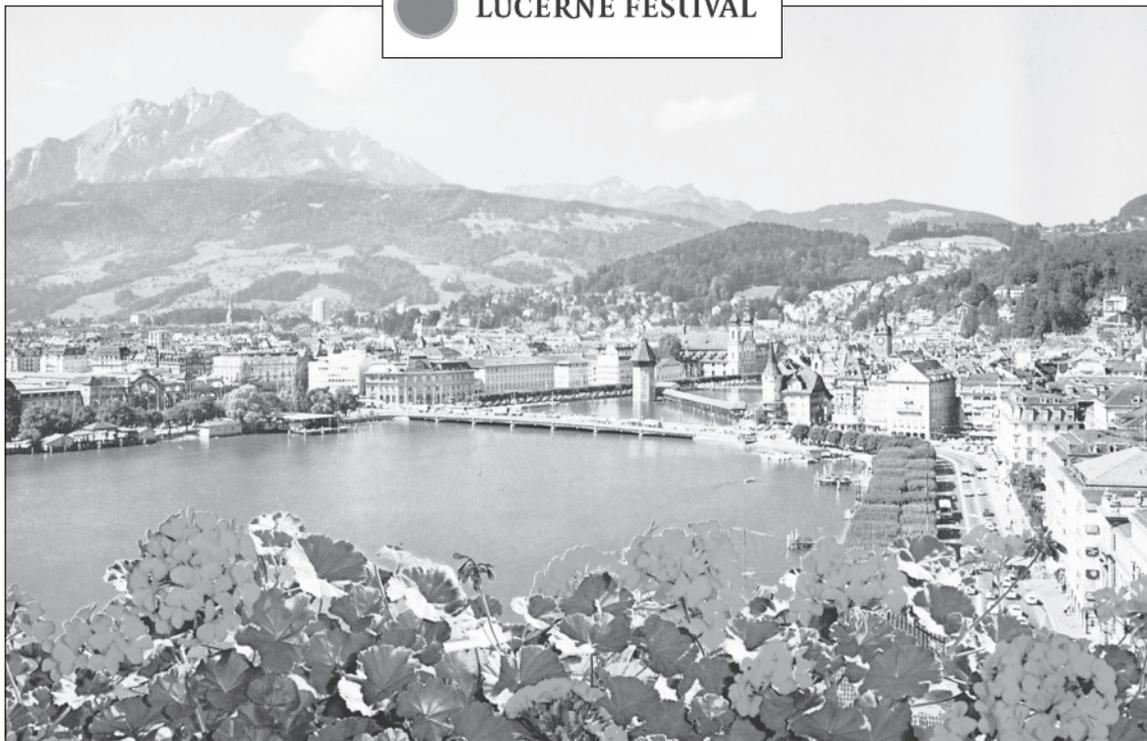


THE LUCERNE FESTIVAL

SEVEN MAJOR CONCERTS
 Sunday, September 3rd through Monday, September 11th



LUCERNE FESTIVAL



Lucerne

"The fame of Lucerne as a tourist resort is kept up from year to year by a well-known music festival. The town has a remarkable site at the northwest end of Lake Lucerne."
 Michelin

"Juan Diego Florez had already all but stolen the show with his high notes, agility and wit in arias by Rossini, Offenbach, Donizetti."
 The Guardian

Martha Argerich: "Her interpretation of Beethoven's first two Piano Concerti was breathtaking... She played with uncanny assurance through the virtuosic passages of the first."
 Backtrack

Anne-Sophie Mutter: "She somehow makes you aware... of how many interpretive options there are beyond the one she has chosen, how many roads through a given work have gone untraveled."
 NY Times

"Chen Riess was a superb Gilda (Rigoletto), her immaculately produced voice and enticing tone matched by her superb musicianship."
 Musical World

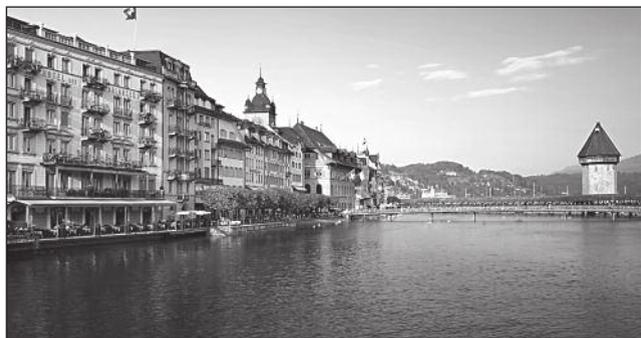
Emanuel Ax: "His greatness, his overwhelming authority as musician, technician and probing intellect emerges quickly as he plays."
 Los Angeles Times



Juan Diego Florez

The world's foremost orchestras, conductors and soloists gather each year at Switzerland's prestigious **Lucerne Festival** for a final chapter of the summer's international festival season. The renowned acoustics of the contemporary state-of-the-art **Concert Hall** attract today's most sought-after stars. As in recent years, we have been able to secure a limited number of tickets for a leisurely sojourn of **seven nights** at the charming and intimate **Hotel des Balances**, ideally located in the heart of the old town under the dramatic backdrop of the Swiss Alps. This will enable us to include **SEVEN MAJOR CONCERTS** representing the highlights of the 2017 European season for lovers of great orchestras. With an irresistible event on each day, this year's schedule will embrace two programs by the revered **Vienna Philharmonic** conducted by **Michael Tilson Thomas** and **Daniel Harding**; two concerts by the **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam**, both led by the recently appointed Chief Conductor, **Daniele Gatti**; a sold-out vocal Recital by the Peruvian 'bel canto' tenor **Juan Diego Florez**; a concert by the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** under **Manfred Honeck**, with violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter** as soloist; and a concert by London's **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** conducted by **Charles Dutoit** and featuring pianist **Martha Argerich**.

*Our tickets and high-season rooms are at a premium and are expensive, but the quality and ambience of the Lucerne Festival are worthy of its superlative reputation as a connoisseur's musical event. The **Lucerne Festival** has become a mecca for the*



Hotel des Balances, on Lake Lucerne

artistic elite of Europe, and late summer is a perfect time to enjoy the mountainous scenery surrounding **Lake Lucerne**. Museums and restaurants are relatively uncrowded in September. *This Tour is limited to only 15 people due to the difficulty of obtaining tickets for our premium events. We were sorry to turn away some of our disappointed friends for last year's sold-out Tour.*

Sunday, September 3rd, departure from New York's Kennedy Airport at 6:10 pm on Swiss Airlines flight #17, arriving in Zürich at 8:00 am on the morning of the 4th. Or independent travel to Lucerne. *Please note:* Our bus transfer will meet our designated flight on Monday, September 4th and take you directly to Lucerne. If you are arriving independently, you will need to take a taxi to Lucerne (roughly 30 – 40 minutes) or a train.

Accommodations for **seven nights** with a generous **Swiss buffet breakfast** included at the **Hotel des Balances**. This four-star property is located in the historic city-center on the **Reuss River** with beautiful views of the **Old Towne** and the Alps. It is also within comfortable walking distance of our performances at the **Concert Hall**. The exterior façade is famous for its murals in the style of Hans Holbein, and the **Restaurant Balances** offers European and regional Swiss dining. The hotel's friendly atmosphere and personal service will add immeasurably to our Lucerne experience.



Daniele Gatti

IMPORTANT: *Please note that there is a concert on our first evening. While we would be happy to reserve your room for the early night of September 3rd, you would need to transfer independently from the Zürich Airport to Lucerne. Our group transfer will be on September 4th. You should notify us NOW in writing if you wish to arrive a night early.*



Chen Riess

Early Monday evening, September 4th, a **reception of Swiss aperitifs and hors-d'oeuvres** is arranged for us at our hotel. This will be an opportunity to meet other members of the tour.

Our first event in the **Konzerthaus** will be a 7:30 pm concert on Monday by the **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam**. The conductor will be **Daniele Gatti**, who assumes the role of the Concertgebouw's Chief Conductor last year. He has announced a program of Anton Bruckner's final *Symphony No. 9*, which will be preceded by the German composer Wolfgang Rihm's *In-Schrift*. Mr. Rihm was born in 1952.

Tuesday afternoon, September 5th, an hour-and-a-half **walking tour** will introduce you to the accessible quaint city-center of Lucerne. The picturesque bridges and café-lined squares are a major attraction of this quiet but elegant town and are best appreciated on foot.

At 7:30 pm on Tuesday evening, we will return to the **Konzerthaus** for the second of our concerts by the **Royal Concertgebouw**. Maestro Gatti will again be on the podium, for Franz Joseph Haydn's *Symphony No. 82 ('The Bear')* and Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*. The soprano soloist for Mahler's closing movement will be the Israeli soprano **Chen Riess**.

Wednesday, September 6th, is left free during the day for independent activities. A variety of local open-air markets and attractive shops are within easy walking distance of the hotel. Accounting for the unique charm of the old town are the **Kapelbrücke** covered bridge crossing the mouth of the **Reuss River**, built in the 14th century and flanked by a landmark octagonal tower; the **Wine Market** square with its decorative houses bearing the signs and flags of various historic guilds; the handsome Renaissance **Altes Rathaus** ('Town Hall') on the banks of the Reuss River; and the unique **Verkehrshaus Museum** tracing the development of all forms of transportation in Switzerland.



Anne-Sophie Mutter

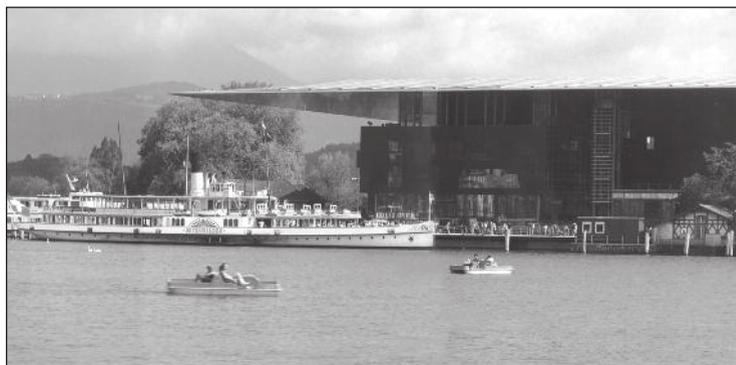
Early Wednesday evening, a **pre-concert dinner** will be arranged for us at the **Hotel WildenMann** not far from our hotel.

At 7:30 pm on Wednesday, we will enjoy the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** in a program of Antonin Dvorak – *Suite from the opera 'Rusalka'* and *Violin Concerto in A-minor* – and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6 ('Pathétique')*. The orchestra's Austrian Music Director **Manfred Honeck** will be the conductor, and the glamorous German violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter** is the soloist.

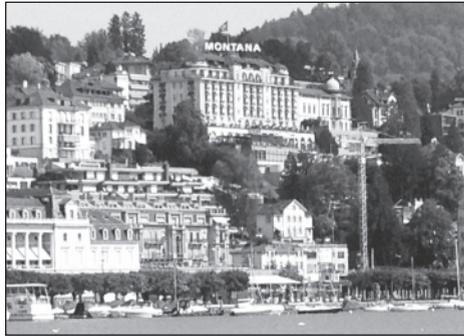
On Thursday morning, September 7th, we have planned a guided **'backstage tour'** of Lucerne's **Konzerthaus**, designed by the renowned French architect Jean Nouvel. Since its opening in 2000, the Konzerthaus has been the principal venue for most of the Festival's important events. The hall's famous acoustics



Dying Lion of Lucerne



Lucerne Konzerthaus



*Hotel Montana
Picasso painting in the
Rosengart Collection*

are the envy of the world's leading conductors, as evidenced by Sir Neville Marriner's appraisal – "There is no equivalent concert hall like this in London. If I could, I'd put it in my pocket and take it with me wherever I go." This morning we will also stop at the **Dying Lion of Lucerne**, a world-famous monument hewn out of natural rock in memory of the heroic death of Swiss mercenaries in 1792. Before returning to the hotel, **lunch** is planned at **Scala Restaurant** in the unique **Art Deco Hotel Montana** perched high in the mountains above Lucerne with inspiring views of central Switzerland.

Thursday evening's 7:30 pm program in the **Konzerthaus** is a change of pace. Instead of the Festival's usual orchestral concerts, we will be treated to a **Recital** by the Peruvian tenor **Juan Diego Florez**, who has conquered the operatic world with his stylish 'bel canto' singing in works by Donizetti and Rossini. Most recently, his lyric portrayal of Gluck's Orfeo received a standing ovation from Covent Garden's discerning audience. He will be accompanied this evening by **Vincenzo Scalerà** at the piano. *(The program of songs and arias has not yet been announced.)*



Charles Dutoit



Martha Argerich

At 7:30 pm on Friday, September 8th, our concert in the **Konzerthaus** will offer London's **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** under the baton of the French-Canadian **Charles Dutoit**. Mr. Dutoit is currently the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. After Georges Enescu's *Romanian Rhapsody (Opus 11, no. 1)*, we will hear Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 1*; Claude Debussy's iconic tone poem, *La Mer*; and Maurice Ravel's hypnotic *Bolero*. The eloquent Argentinian pianist **Martha Argerich** is the soloist.

On Saturday, September 9th, a morning visit will take us to **The Rosengart Collection** which has been hailed as "quite possibly Europe's best new museum" (*National Geographic Traveler*) and has immediately altered the artistic image of the city. This personal collection of **Angela Rosengart**, an art dealer and collector who was a frequent model for Picasso, is "a coherent treasure chest of Klees, Picassos, and other great modern painters of the 20th century" – including works by Cézanne, Monet, Matisse, Braque, Léger and Miró. Ms. Rosengart has generously committed her collection to her hometown of Lucerne: "It was a gift to the city, made with my heart." (*Quotes from National Geographic Traveler*).

Early Saturday evening at 6:30 pm, we will have the luxury of hearing the peerless **Vienna Philharmonic** in the first of two programs. The orchestra is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of their first appearance at the Lucerne Festival. The San Francisco Symphony's Music Director **Michael Tilson Thomas** will lead the 'Vienna Phil' tonight in Johannes Brahms' *Variations on a Theme by Joseph Haydn*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Piano Concerto in E-Flat Major, K. 449* and Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*. **Emanuel Ax** will be the piano soloist.

On Sunday, September 10th, our final concert will be at 5:00 pm in the **Konzerthaus**. This second program by the **Vienna Philharmonic** will be led by Britain's **Daniel Harding**, who has announced works by Claude Debussy – *Suite from the opera 'Pelléas et Mélisande'* – and Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 6 ('Tragic')*. Following the concert, **dinner** is arranged at **Bam Bou** restaurant.



watertower

Monday, September 11th, transfer to Zürich Airport in time for departure at 12:55 pm on Swiss Airlines flight #14, scheduled to arrive at New York's Kennedy Airport at 3:45 pm. Or independent departure.

Emanuel Ax

*Michael
Tilson-Thomas*



Vienna Philharmonic

Lucerne Festival:

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 5,980
Single room supplement	\$ 950

Airfare Not Included.

Air fare: Prices are subject to change, depending on time of booking. Please contact our agent Linda Botros (back-page cover) for lowest current fares.