

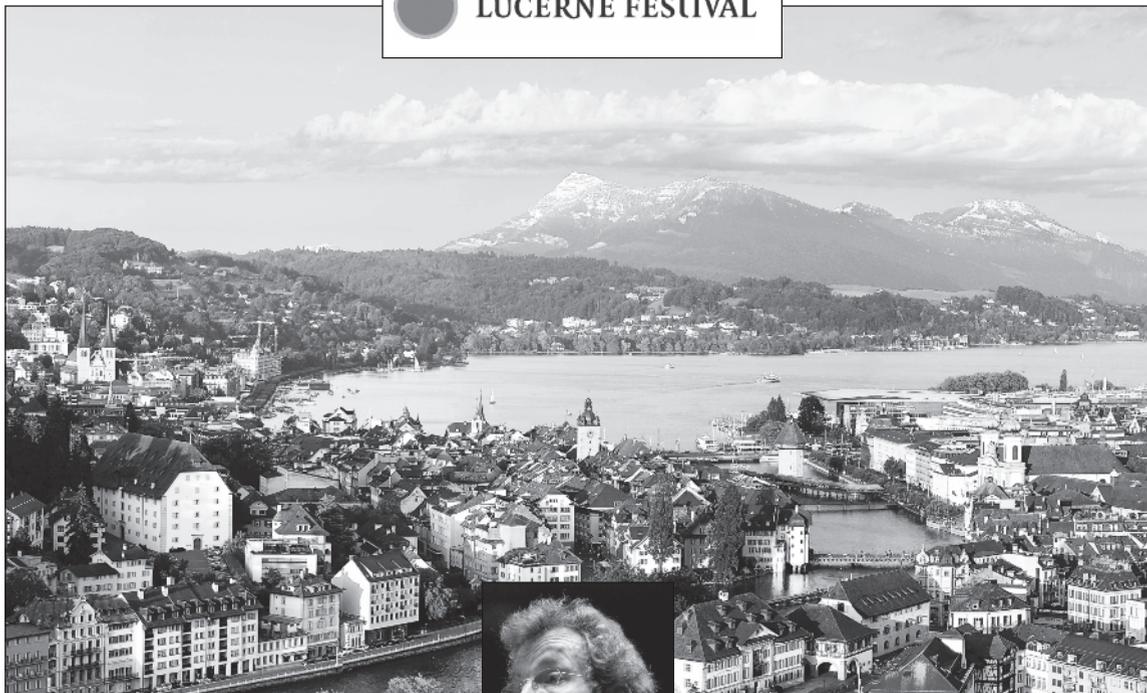
# THE LUCERNE FESTIVAL

## SEVEN MAJOR CONCERTS

Wednesday, September 5th through Friday, September 14th



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

**Susan Graham:** *"An eloquent interpreter of a large repertory, from German Classicism to contemporary American music."*

NY Times

**Sol Gabetta:** *"Wit, aristocratic poise and elegance... intensity and lightness in near miraculous balance"*

The Herald

*"Krystian Zimerman is a formidable pianist with a prodigious technique and a powerful intellect."*

NY Times

*"The coloratura of soprano Jane Archibald stopped the show with her brilliant vocal pyrotechnics."*

Toronto Globe & Mail

**Andris Nelsons & The Boston Symphony Orchestra:** *"Every time I've seen Nelsons conduct, he has set off brushfires of intensity."*

The New Yorker

**Sir Simon Rattle & The London Symphony Orchestra:** *"Rattle drew grandly impassioned music-making from his players throughout, with the LSO strings in particular on soaring form."*

The Guardian



Franz Welser-Möst



Sir Simon Rattle



Daniele Gatti



Andris Nilsons

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 **eight 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 2018 European season for lovers of great orchestras. This year, we are able to include an irresistible schedule of two programs by the revered **Vienna Philharmonic** conducted by the Austrian maestro **Franz Welser-Möst**; two concerts by the **Boston Symphony Orchestra**, both led by the dynamic Latvian Music Director **Andris Nelsons**; a pair of concerts by the **London Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of **Sir Simon Rattle**; and a concert by London's **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam** conducted by their Italian Chief Conductor **Daniele Gatti**.

*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. September is a perfect time to enjoy the magnificent mountainous scenery surrounding **Lake Lucerne**. Last year's tour sold out very quickly.*

Wednesday, September 5th, departure from New York's Kennedy Airport at 6:10 pm on Swiss Airlines flight LX 17, arriving in Zürich at 8:00 am on the morning of the 6th. Or independent travel to Lucerne. *Please note:* Our bus transfer will meet our designated flight on Thursday, September 6th 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 **eight 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.

**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 5th, you would need to transfer independently from the Zürich Airport to Lucerne. Our group transfer will be on September 6th. You should notify us NOW in writing if you wish to arrive a night early.*

Early Thursday evening, September 6th, 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 assumed the role of the Concertgebouw's Chief Conductor in 2016. He has announced a program of two short works by Anton Webern and Johann Sebastian Bach, followed by Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 7* ('*Song of the Night*').

Friday afternoon, September 7th, 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 Friday evening, we will have the luxury of hearing the peerless **Vienna Philharmonic** in the first of two concerts. The conductor will be **Franz Welser-Möst**, currently Music Director of the Cleveland Orchestra and a frequent guest on the podium for Vienna's foremost

**ensemble**. This evening's program will include Franz Joseph Haydn's *Cello Concerto #1 in C major* and Anton Bruckner's *Symphony No. 5*. The soloist is the Argentine cellist **Sol Gabetta**.



*Hotel des Balances*



*Watertower and covered bridge*

Saturday, September 8th, 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.



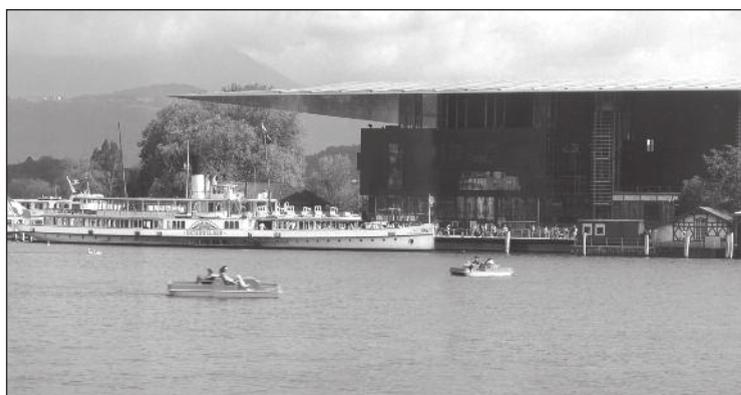
*Sol Gabetta*

Saturday evening at 6:30 pm (*early starting time*), we will hear a second program by the **Vienna Philharmonic** in the **Konzerthaus**. **Franz Welser-Möst** is again in charge and has announced works by Antonin Dvorak (*the tone poem 'Der Wassermann'*) and Johannes Brahms (*Symphony No. 2*). A highlight of the concert will be a performance of a Concerto (*to be announced*) featuring the 2018 winner of the Credit Suisse

Young Artist Award. After the concert, **dinner** is arranged for us at **Hotel Wilden Mann** not far from our hotel.

Sunday, September 9th, is a completely free day for you to relax and is the only day without a concert.

On Monday, September 10th, we will have 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 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



*Lucerne Konzerthaus*

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.



*Dying Lion of Lucerne*



*Vitznau*



*Magdalena Kozena*

Monday evening's 7:30 pm concert in the **Konzerthaus** will feature the **London Symphony Orchestra** led by **Sir Simon Rattle**. Maestro Rattle has recently assumed his new role as Music Director of this ensemble, and he will step down from his leadership of the Berlin Philharmonic at the close of 2018. Tonight he will offer an *all-Maurice Ravel* program of *Ma mère l'Oye*; *Shéhérezade*; and the one-act opera *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*. The vocalists will include several operatic luminaries – **Magdalena Kozena**, **Marie-Nicole Lemieux**, and **Jane Archibald**.



*Marie-Nicole Lemieux*



*Jane Archibald*

Tuesday morning, September 11th, 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*).

Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm, our second concert by the **London Symphony Orchestra** under **Sir Simon Rattle** will offer a stimulating program of Leonard Bernstein’s *Symphony No. 2* (*The Age of Anxiety*) in honor of the composer’s Centennial year; Antonin Dvorak’s *Slavic Dances, opus 72*; and Leos Janacek’s *Sinfonietta*. The piano soloist for Bernstein’s unusual work – a set of symphonic piano variations – will be Poland’s **Krystian Zimerman**.



*Krystian Zimerman*



*London Symphony Orchestra*

Wednesday, September 12th, we’ll enjoy a **scenic cruise** on **Lake Lucerne** stopping at the lovely lakeside village of **Vitznau**. At 7:30 pm on Wednesday evening, the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** will be led by their hugely popular Latvian Music Director **Andris Nelsons**, who has announced a pair of twentieth century works by Leonard Bernstein (*Serenade, after Plato’s Symposium*) and Dmitri Shostakovich (*Symphony No. 4*). Violinist **Baibe Skride** is the soloist for Bernstein’s *Serenade*.



*Baibe Skride*

Thursday evening, September 13th, a pre-performance **dinner** at our favorite **Bam Bou** restaurant before our concluding 7:30 pm concert in the **Konzerthaus**. This second program by the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** will be



*Picasso’s portrait of Angela Rosengart*

by Gustav Mahler’s full-length *Symphony No. 3*. **Andris Nelsons** is again the conductor, and the vocal soloist for the final movements will be the beloved American mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham**. The choral passages will be sung by the **Latvian Academic Choir** and the **Riga Cathedral Boys Choir**.



*Susan Graham*

Friday, September 14th, transfer to Zürich Airport in time for departure at 12:55 pm on Swiss Airlines LX 14, scheduled to arrive at New York’s Kennedy Airport at 3:45 pm. Or independent departure.

**Lucerne Festival:**

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 6,480*
Single room supplement	\$ 980

*\*Our price is higher than usual, due to the inclusion of **eight nights** at the hotel in order to fit our chosen program of concerts.*

**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.