

LUCERNE FESTIVAL



SPRING FESTIVAL

11. – 13.04.2025

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

Program

Main Sponsor

Jörg G. Bucherer-Foundation

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