



Festival Strings Lucerne

since 1956

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Festival Strings Lucerne was founded in 1956, quickly establishing itself among the most distinguished chamber orchestras in Europe and around the world. The orchestra made its debuts at Lucerne Festival in 1956, at Salzburg Festival in 1957, in Wien and Paris in 1958, in New York in 1959, in London in 1961, in Mexico City in 1963, in Tokyo in 1971, in Sydney in 1977, and in Hong Kong in 1978.

The orchestra offers a wide-ranging repertoire in its own concert series at the KKL Luzern and as guest ensemble at Lucerne Festival, while regularly appearing at such European leading concert halls as Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Philharmonie Berlin, Amsterdam's Het Concertgebouw, and the Vienna Musikverein. Festival Strings Lucerne, currently led by the violinist Daniel Dodds, was established as a string orchestra with harpsichord by the Viennese violin legend Wolfgang Schneiderhan and the Swiss conductor and violinist Rudolf Baumgartner. From the start, the ensemble has been committed to developing the noble glow and warmth of the Austro-Hungarian string sound tradition. Dodds, who was appointed artistic director in 2012, leads the orchestra from the concertmaster's chair, continuing the example set by Baumgartner. Daniel Dodds has particularly extended the scope of the ensemble, adding instruments as required, to facilitate performances of midsize symphonic repertoire.

The orchestra, whose repertoire ranges from baroque music to the contemporary, has premiered over one hundred works by such composers as Jean Francaix, Frank Martin, Bohuslav Martinů, Sandor Veress, Iannis Xenakis, Krzysztof Penderecki, and Rudolf Kelterborn. The ensemble has recently collaborated with such leading musicians as Daniil Trifonov, Khatia Buniatishvili, Hélène Grimaud, Rudolf Buchbinder, Maria João Pires, Mischa Maisky, Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, and Midori.

Festival Strings Lucerne has a long history of distinguished recordings, exclusively released by Deutsche Grammophon until 1973, then by Decca, Eurodisc, Denon, Pentatone, and Warner Classics (Midori plays Beethoven). Sony Classical has released the newest albums Haffner Serenade featuring works by Wolfgang A. Mozart and his same-age contemporary Vincenzo Righini (2022) or chart-stormer FEMMES accompanying cellist Raphaela Gromes who dedicated the album to woman composers from the 12th century up to our times (2023).

DANIEL DODDS

Daniel Dodds is a violinist and pedagogue who has served as artistic director of the Festival Strings Lucerne since 2012, adding to his duties as first concertmaster of the ensemble, a post he assumed in 2000. Dodds, who is of Australian-Chinese ancestry, has performed as a soloist under such conductors Zubin Mehta, Vladimir Ashkenazy, and Oksana Lyniv in collaboration with orchestras including the Festival Strings Lucerne, Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and the Australian World Orchestra. Dodds completed his violin studies with Gunars Larsens, his predecessor as concertmaster of the Festival Strings Lucerne, as well with Keiko Wataya in Utrecht, Holland. He has also participated in masterclasses with Rudolf Baumgartner, Franco Gulli and Nathan Milstein. Beside his performance schedule, Dodds currently teaches at the Musikhochschule of Lucerne. Both his work with the Festival Strings Lucerne and his critically acclaimed solo recordings, the album Time Transcending (Oehms) or the 2022 released Mozart Haffner Serenade supplemented with a world premiere recording of Vincenzo Righini's Capriccio from his 1803 opera Gerusalemme liberate (Sony), display his deep commitment to music of varying styles, spanning centuries. He plays the Stradivarius Hammerle-Baumgartner from 1717, on loan from the Festival Strings Lucerne Foundation.