

THE LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Six Major Concerts

Saturday, August 31st through Sunday, September 8th



Lucerne and the Lake

“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

Each year, the world’s foremost orchestras, conductors and soloists gather at Switzerland’s prestigious **Lucerne Festival** for a final chapter of the summer’s international festival season. For 2024, we have secured a limited number of tickets for an expansive program of **SIX MAJOR CONCERTS** enhanced by the renowned acoustics of the contemporary **Concert Hall**. Our leisurely sojourn of **seven nights** will be at the charming and intimate **Hotel des Balances**, ideally located in the heart of the old town. For ‘aficionados’ of orchestral music, our irresistible schedule will include the peerless **Vienna Philharmonic** (two concerts), the **Cleveland Orchestra**, the **Bavarian Symphony Orchestra**, the venerable **Leipzig Gewandhaus**, and the **Orchestre de Paris**. Our tickets and high-season rooms are at an expensive premium, but the quality and ambience of the **Lucerne Festival** are worthy of its superlative reputation as a connoisseur’s event. September is a perfect time to enjoy the magnificent scenery surrounding **Lake Lucerne**.

Saturday, August 31st, departure from New York’s Kennedy Airport at 8:55 pm on Swiss Airlines flight #15, arriving in Zürich at 10:50 am



Sir Simon Rattle



Franz Welser-Möst

on the morning of September 1st. Or independent travel to Lucerne. *Please note:* Our bus transfer will meet our designated flight on Sunday the 1st 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 four-star **Hotel des Balances**, 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 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 August 31st, you would need to transfer independently from the Zürich Airport to Lucerne. Our group transfer will be on September 1st. You should notify us NOW if you wish to arrive a night early.*



Konzerthaus

Our first Festival event in the **Konzerthaus** will be a 6:30 pm concert on Sunday. The revered **Cleveland Orchestra** will be led by Music Director **Franz Welser-**

Möst in a program of Robert Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A minor* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*. The soloist is Iceland's **Vikigur Olafsson**, whose recent virtuoso recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* has received critical acclaim.

Following the concert, a **Reception of Swiss aperitifs and hors-d'oeuvres** will be arranged at our hotel. This will be an opportunity to meet other members of the tour.

Monday afternoon, September 2nd, an hour-and-a-half **walking**



Hotel des Balances

tour will introduce you to the 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.



Vikigur Olafsson

At 7:30 pm on Monday, we will return to the Konzerthaus to hear the **Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra** in a performance of Mahler's *Symphony No. 6 ('Tragic')*. We are fortunate that **Sir Simon**

Rattle will be on the podium for Mahler's towering work.

Tuesday, September 3rd, is left free for independent activities. A variety of local open-air markets 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; and the handsome Renaissance **Altes Rathaus** ('Town Hall'). *Tuesday is our only free evening without a performance.*



On Wednesday, September 4th, we will have a guided **'backstage tour'** of Lucerne's **Konzerthaus**. 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



Dying Lion

Kapellebrücke

The Boston Symphony Orchestra's Latvian Music Director **Andris Nelsons** will conduct, and the soloist is the charismatic Russian pianist **Daniil Trifonov**.



Andris Nelsons



Daniil Trifonov



Chagall painting in the Rosengart Collection

Following a relaxing free day on Thursday, September 5th, we will hear the **Orchestre de Paris** at 7:30 pm. The Finnish-born conductor **Klaus Mäkelä** has announced a program of Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* and Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*. The Georgian violinist **Lisa Batiashvili** is the glamorous soloist for Tchaikovsky's demanding work.

Friday morning, September 6th, 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*). 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". 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*).



Lisa Batiashvili

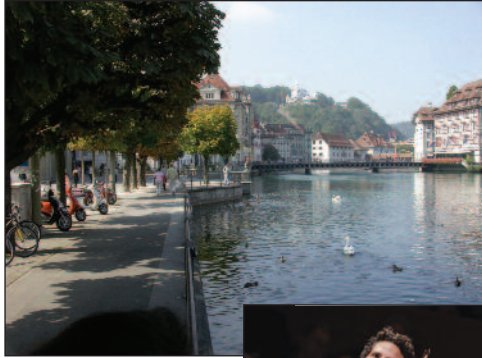


Christian Thielemann

Friday's concert will begin at 7:30 pm, when the **Vienna Philharmonic** will give the first of two concerts under the German maestro, **Christian Thielemann**. This evening's program will include Felix Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3 ('Scottish')* and Richard Strauss's tone poem, *Ein Heldenleben ('A Hero's Life')*.

Our Lucerne sojourn will conclude on Saturday evening, September 7th, with the 7:30 pm second concert by the **Vienna Philharmonic**. Again under Maestro **Thielemann**, the program will open with a **Concerto (To Be Announced)** featuring the prize-winner of the Credit Suisse Young Artist Award. The major orchestral work is Anton Bruckner's *Symphony No. 1*.

Dinner is planned at the hotel's superior **Restaurant Balances** after the concert.



Reuss River



Lucerne Festival Orchestra

Sunday, September 8th, transfer to Zürich Airport in time for departure at 1:00 pm on Swiss Airlines flight #14, scheduled to arrive at New York's Kennedy Airport at 3:55 pm. Or independent departure.

Lucerne Festival:

Price per person,
based on double occupancy \$ 6,550
Single room supplement \$ 980

Airfare Not Included.



Konzerthaus at intermission

BOOKING INFORMATION

Please contact us by telephone or e-mail to reserve your space.

(212)580-1400 info@greatperformancetours.com

We will send you a Registration Form and Tour Conditions.

RESERVATIONS: *Please note changes to our deposits and payment dates.*

A deposit of \$2,000 per person per Tour is required for International Tours and \$1,500 per person for U.S. and Canadian tours. The remaining balance is due 90 days prior to the tour departure, unless otherwise specified. We accept all major credit cards, checks and money orders. Deposits, minus a \$300 per person handling fee, are fully refundable until 90 days prior to departure. Canadian clients pay by credit card or in U.S. dollars by International Money Order.

All prices for international tours are based on present currency exchange rates. In the event of a significant reduction in the value of the dollar relative to any currency, we reserve the right to alter the price of the tour prior to departure.

All cancellations must be received in writing. All requests for additional hotel nights must be received in writing.

All tickets subject to availability. Casts and programs subject to change.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS Airfare is NOT included.

For International and U.S Tours Air Travel: Please contact our agent Linda Botros for current fares.

Prices are subject to change. Linda Botros, Ovation Travel, 71 Fifth Ave, 10th fl, New York, NY 10003

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