



Press Information

17th Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad 27 January to 4 February 2017

Featured instrument: the violin

The orchestra Les Siècles, with violinist Gil Shaham and conducted by François-Xavier Roth, will open the Festival

Three concert cycles in three outstanding venues

Gstaad: discovering young talent

Saanen: the stars of the Festival

Rougemont: the artistic director's personal favourites

GSTAAD, 7 NOVEMBER 2016 – The Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad and their artistic director Renaud Capuçon present the musical programme of their seventeenth edition. From 27 January to 4 February 2017, music-lovers will gather in the churches of Gstaad, Saanen and Rougemont. In the spirit of the Festival's objectives, unchanged since its inception in 2001, audiences at the Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad will be able to hear outstanding young talent as well as internationally renowned virtuosos over the course of nine days.

This seventeenth edition of the festival presents the second programme devised by violinist Renaud Capuçon. This year, the specially featured instrument throughout the event will be the violin. The orchestra Les Siècles, with François-Xavier Roth at the helm, will be joined by the Israeli-American violinist Gil Shaham for the Festival's opening concert on Friday 27 January 2017 in the church of Saanen. They will perform Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D op.61 as well as his Symphony no.5 in C minor op.67.

Concerts in the chapel of Gstaad

Renaud Capuçon, mentor to the rising stars

Renaud Capuçon will be mentor to the rising stars. He says, 'I'm very happy to be taking up this role as mentor – it gives me the opportunity to share my love for music in the spirit of communication and exchange that is so dear to me.' Ombretta Ravessoud, director of the Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad, adds: 'With his talent and the passion that constantly drives him, Renaud Capuçon is the ideal teacher to support and inspire these young musicians.'

Toshio Hosokawa, composer in residence

The violin will be centre stage every day from 4pm to 5pm in the chapel of Gstaad, featuring works by Strauss, Mozart, Grieg, Schoenfield, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Ravel, Bartók, Janáček, Poulenc, Fauré, Chausson, Schubert, Schoenberg, Schumann, Enescu, Franck, Saint-Saëns, Elgar and Hosokawa, all performed by the festival's young artists. For the 2017 festival, this new generation of violinists will be accompanied by young pianists to make up

some exceptional partnerships. The two German sisters Mariella (violin) and Magdalena Haubs (piano) will open the festival series in the chapel of Gstaad on Saturday 28 January. French violinist Eva Zavaro will be playing alongside Russian pianist Tatiana Chernichka on the 29th, and French violinist David Petrlík will be accompanied by his compatriot Alexandre Kantorow on 30 January. The violinists Irène Duval and Raphaëlle Moreau, from France, will appear with Vassilis Varvaresos, from Turkey on 31 January and Célia Oneto-Bensaid, also from France, on 3 February. Swiss violinist Simon Wiener (violin) will be performing with Canadian Silvia Fraser (piano) on 1 February, American violinist Caroline Goulding will play with German pianist Danae Dörken on 2 February and, last of all, violinist Maya Levy alongside her fellow Belgian Matthieu Idmtal will bring the series of concerts in the Gstaad chapel to a close on Saturday 4 February 2017. All these talented young players will be in contention for the Festival's two prestigious awards: the Prix Thierry Scherz and the Prix André Hoffmann.

Renaud Capuçon's invitation of Toshio Hosakawa to the festival as composer in residence is a fitting tribute to an outstanding contemporary composer, who draws on traditional Japanese music as well as the Western avant-garde for his artistic inspiration.

Two prestigious awards: the Prix Thierry Scherz and the Prix André Hoffmann

The Prix Thierry Scherz is sponsored by the Fondation Pro Scientia et Arte and the association of Friends of the Festival ('les Amis du Festival'). It represents an opportunity to recognize one young virtuoso and offer them encouragement by giving them the chance to record a debut CD with orchestra for the Claves Records SA label.

The new CDs by pianists Guillaume Bellom and Kevin Jansson, joint winners of the Thierry Scherz award at the 2016 festival, will go on sale in November 2017.

The Prix André Hoffmann, endowed with 5000 Swiss francs, will be awarded for the best interpretation of a work by Toshio Hosakawa. The Foundation's financial support also enables the Festival to invite the composer in residence for the entire week of the event. The Prix André Hoffmann was awarded in 2016 to the young pianist Rémi Geniet.

Concerts at the church of Saanen The stars of the festival

The church of Saanen will be filled with the sounds of works by Beethoven, Mozart, Vivaldi and Haydn.

Les Siècles, with violinist Gil Shaham, will open the festival on Friday 27 January at the church of Saanen, with two works by Beethoven. The week's concerts are sure to provide its loyal audience with a series of exciting highlights featuring many distinguished artists, including the immensely gifted Russian violinist Viktoria Mullova, who will be accompanied by the Italian Baroque ensemble Il Giardino Armonico on 28 January, playing works by Vivaldi and Haydn. On Tuesday 2 February, Renaud Capuçon and pianist Kit Armstrong will be playing four pieces by Mozart, including his Violin Sonata in F K376 and his Violin Sonata in G K379. The Hungarian-born British pianist András Schiff will direct the Cappella Andrea Barca, appearing with them on Friday 3 February to perform works by Haydn and Mozart. To bring the festival to a close on Saturday 4 February, Renaud Capuçon has given the remarkable American pianist Murray Perahia free rein to choose his own programme.

Concerts in the church of Rougemont The artistic director's 'coups de cœur'

The Romanesque church in Rougemont will play host to the 'coups de cœur', the personal favourites, of the festival's artistic director. Pianist David Fray, violist Gérard Caussé and clarinettist Paul Meyer will give a recital on Sunday 29 January containing works by Schumann and Mozart; baritone Matthias Goerne will sing Schubert's *Winterreise* with Leif Ove Andsnes at the piano on 30 January; and the quartet featuring violinist Baiba Skride, her sister pianist Lauma Skride, violinist Harriet Krijgh and violist Lise Berthaud will be delighting music-lovers on 31 January with works by Mahler, Mozart and Brahms. A concert with soprano Polina Pastirchak and pianist Jan Philip Schulze will bring the series of concerts in Rougemont to a close, with works by Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Strauss.

A true winter rendezvous

The festival will feature a total of 17 top-quality concerts from 27 January to 4 February 2017. The Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, it should be added, are one of the few festivals in Switzerland whose concerts take place exclusively in churches – to the delight of music-lovers who particularly value the unique magic and intimate atmosphere of this event.

The Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, a bona fide winter rendezvous in the region, are the first classical music festival of the year. The festival will be organizing dinners after several of the concerts, thus providing a rare opportunity for a music-loving audience to meet the artists, thanks to the patronage of a variety of active partners – whether individuals, business ventures, foundations and associations – including Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, Madame Vera Michalski-Hoffmann, Madame Aline Foriel-Destezet and Sotheby's, to name only a few.

Programme, tickets and advance sales

www.sommets-musicaux.ch

Tickets will be on sale from 14 November 2016. Bookings can be made at the:

- Gstaad tourist office: +41 33 748 81 82 ticketing@gstaad.ch
- Rougemont tourist office: +41 26 925 11 66 info@rougemont.ch
- www.ticketcorner.ch 0900 800 800
- at the venues

Ticket prices per concert: between CHF 30 and CHF 150 (Swiss francs), depending on the category and the venue

Cost of dinner per head at the Gstaad Palace: CHF 190

Young persons' rate ('Jeunesse', for those aged between 5 and 25): 50% discount

Locals' rates ('Indigènes'): 10% discount

A brief look at the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad

From its inception in 2001, the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad festival has been hailed as the ultimate reference point in winter festivals, an event to delight all aficionados of classical music. Every year young talented musicians, internationally renowned artists, and lovers of music from Switzerland and abroad gather in this enchanting snow-capped paradise to perform and enjoy some of the finest works in the classical repertory.

The festival is structured in three categories: three concert cycles spread across three outstanding venues. In the afternoon, the Gstaad Chapel hosts a selection of the most promising young artists. In the evening, the churches of Rougemont and Saanen are filled with the sounds of celebrated soloists and internationally renowned orchestras.

Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad

Founded following the initial series of concerts by a group of music-lovers and chaired by Denise Elfen, the friends' association Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad has grown steadily ever since. It offers invaluable support to the Festival, in particular financing one of the concerts in the church at Saanen. This year, the association is delighted to sponsor the evening concert on 28 February 2017.

The complete press kit including press release, biographies of the artists, the full programme of events, HD images of the artists and of the various venues, along with the Sommets Musicaux logo and the accreditation form can be downloaded here:

www.sommets-musicaux.ch/presse.

For organizational reasons, we would be grateful if you could obtain your accreditation by 16 December 2015.

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