



Press Information

19th Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad 25 January to 2 February 2019

The viola takes centre stage

The Kammerorchester Basel and the soprano Sandrine Piau will open the Festival in the church of Saanen

Three concert cycles in three outstanding venues

Chapel of Gstaad: discovering young talent across eight concerts

Church of Saanen: the stars of the Festival, with five concerts and one musical story for children

Church of Rougemont: four concerts featuring the artistic director's personal favourites

GSTAAD, 1 NOVEMBER 2018 – The Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad and their artistic director Renaud Capuçon present the musical programme of their nineteenth edition. From 25 January to 2 February 2018, music-lovers will gather in the chapel of Gstaad and the churches of Saanen and Rougemont. In the spirit of the Festival's objectives, unchanged since its inception in 2001, audiences at the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad will be able to hear outstanding young talent as well as internationally renowned virtuosos over the course of nine days.

This year, for the first time, the viola will be in the spotlight throughout the Festival, with specially dedicated concerts in the chapel of Gstaad from 4pm and at the concert in the church of Saanen on 26 January, which will feature the marvellous viola player Gérard Caussé, mentor of the Festival, alongside Renaud Capuçon and Les Siècles. They will be performing a concert dedicated exclusively to Mozart, conducted by François-Xavier Roth.

Renaud Capuçon has once again devised his programme with the aim of building bridges between new generations and established musicians of renown. Yann Maresz, who was the sole pupil of John McLaughlin and subsequently his principal orchestrator and arranger, has been chosen to be composer in residence. Since 2007, he has been teaching new musical techniques and electro-acoustic composition at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris and at the Boulogne-Billancourt Conservatory. 'This year is particularly special,' Renaud Capuçon explains. 'The festival will be putting French virtuosos in the spotlight. I was very keen to have some of our most outstanding musicians perform here, including Katia and Marielle Labèque, François-Xavier Roth, Sandrine Piau, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Alexandre Tharaud, Gautier Capuçon, Emmanuel Pahud and Paul Meyer.'

The Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad's artistic director is a firm believer that a festival should be personified by its musicians, its organizers and its partners. We can be sure that this year's festival will be an exceptional one yet again.

Chapel of Gstaad

G rard Causs , mentor to the rising stars

G rard Causs  will be mentor to the rising stars. He says, 'I'm very happy to have this opportunity to put my experience at the service of the rising stars of tomorrow, and I'm delighted to be taking on this exciting new challenge.' Renaud Capu on adds: 'G rard Causs  is a viola player of undisputed stature in France and throughout the world. He is truly an outstanding, unparalleled musician in his field. I have no doubt whatsoever that he will pass on his passion and his talent to the young musicians.'

Yann Maresz, composer in residence

The festival has specially commissioned a work for solo viola from Yann Maresz, to be performed by young talented musicians every afternoon between 4pm and 5pm in the Gstaad Chapel. With his choice of Yann Maresz as composer in residence, Renaud Capu on has identified a highly gifted contemporary artist who began his studies with the piano and percussion, later teaching himself jazz guitar and devoting himself to the genre before meeting John McLaughlin. He studied jazz at Boston's Berklee College of Music from 1983 to 1986 and gradually turned towards composition. Renaud Capu on says 'It's a privilege to be able to welcome an artist of this calibre as our composer in residence.'

The concerts

The young violists and their colleagues on the piano will be performing works by many composers as well as the composer in residence: Schumann, Bax, Maresz, Shostakovich/Berezovsky, Ginastera, Bridge, Britten, York Bowen, Ysa e, Clarke, Weber, Arad, Hindemith, Piazzolla, Bach, Kvandall, Bloch, Enescu, Brahms, Bruch, Franck, Ravel and B sser – a range of works that the festival's director has made a point of making as varied and diverse as possible.

French violist Manuel Vioque-Judde and pianist Jonathan Fournel will open the Festival in the chapel of Gstaad on Saturday 26 January. British viola player Timothy Ridout will be performing with Welsh pianist J ms Coleman on the 27th, with Frenchman Jean Sauterau (viola) and the Japanese Keigo Mukawa (piano) following on the 28th; the young viola player Ren Martin-Doike, originally from Honolulu, will be playing alongside the American Stephanie Gurga on the piano on 29 January, while Brazilians Lara Teixeira Martins (viola) and her brother Bruno Teixeira Martins will appear on 30 January. French violist L a Hennino will be performing with her countryman Guillaume Bellom on the piano on 31 January, with Vladimir Per evi  (viola), from Serbia, and Russian Sergei Redkin will be on stage on 1 February. Last of all, Mathis Rochat (viola), from Geneva, and his partner Erdem Misirlioglu will bring the series of rising stars to a close on Saturday 2 February 2019.

All these talented young musicians will be in contention for the festival's two awards, the Prix Thierry Scherz and the Prix Andr  Hoffmann.

Two prestigious awards: the Prix Thierry Scherz and the Prix Andr  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 Prix Andr  Hoffmann, endowed with 5000 Swiss francs, will be awarded for the best interpretation of a work by Yann Maresz. It also provides the support enabling the Festival to host the composer in residence for the entire week of the event.

Concerts at the church of Saanen

The stars of the festival

The church of Saanen will be filled with the sounds of works by Torelli, Leo, Porpora, Hasse, Handel, Mozart, Stravinsky, Debussy, Mendelssohn, Ravel, Ibert and Bach.

The Kammerorchester Basel, with soprano Sandrine Piau and conductor Anna Katharina Schreiber, will open the festival on 25 January in the church of Saanen with works by Torelli, Leo, Porpora, Hasse and Handel.

The week's concerts are sure to provide its loyal audience of music-lovers with a series of exciting highlights, including the concert on 26 January featuring Renaud Capuçon on the violin and Gérard Caussé on the viola, with Les Siècles conducted by François-Xavier Roth, who will be performing a programme of works by Mozart. Renaud Capuçon and his brother Gautier will be appearing with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, playing works by Mendelssohn and Ravel on Monday 28 January.

On 1 February, Emmanuel Pahud (flute) and the famous Orchestra de chambre de Paris will be conducted by Douglas Boyd. Last of all, pianist András Schiff will bring the Festival to a close on Saturday 2 February, performing works by Mozart with the Cappella Andrea Barca.

This year, in the church of Saanen, the Festival will be presenting a musical story for local children on 29 January at 10.30am. 'Le Roi qui n'aimait pas la musique' ('The king who didn't like music') by Karol Beffa, set to a text by Mathieu Lane, will feature Renaud Capuçon, Yan Levionnois, Paul Meyer and Karol Beffa on the piano among the participants.

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. There will be four spectacular concerts on 27, 29, 30 and 31 January 2019. French sisters Katia and Marielle Labèque will be playing the piano on 27 January, with a programme of works by Stravinsky, Debussy and Ravel. Pianist Alexandre Tharaud will be playing Bach's Goldberg Variations on 29 January. Adam Laloum on the piano, Raphaëlle Moreau on the violin, Yan Levionnois on the cello and Paul Meyer on the clarinet will be appearing at the concert on 30 January, playing works by Messiaen. Lastly, cellist Henri Demarquette and the Chœur Ensemble Sequenza 9.3 conducted by Catherine Simonpietri will bring the series of concerts in the church of Rougemont to a close on 31 January 2019, with works by Purcell, Tavener, Tanguy, Ockeghem, Clemens non Papa, Hersant and Janulyté.

A true winter rendezvous

The festival will feature a total of 18 concerts from 25 January to 2 February 2019. 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 once again be organizing dinners in the Gstaad Palace after the concerts in Saanen, 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 individual sponsors, business ventures, foundations and associations – including Sotheby's, Vera Michalski-Hoffmann, president of the Festival, Aline Foriel-Destezet and Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, to name only a few.

Programme, tickets and advance sales

www.sommets-musicaux.ch

Tickets will be on sale from 19 November 2018. 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 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 delight their audiences with the sounds of celebrated soloists and internationally renowned orchestras.

Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad

Founded following the initial series of concerts, the friends' association Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, under the leadership of its new chairman Pierre Dreyfus, offers invaluable support to the Festival.

The complete press kit including press release, the full programme of events, biographies of the artists, 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 Friday 14 December 2018: www.sommetsmusicaux.ch/accreditation-form/accreditation-form-in-english

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