

Settimane Musicali Ascona

4 September – 11 October 2019

Big names for the event's 74th year

For over 70 years the Settimane Musicali di Ascona, one of the most important classical music festivals in Switzerland, present a program that alternates between major symphonic concerts, chamber music and solo recitals. All of the world's most famous performers have appeared in Ascona at least once, and many have returned many times.

Directed by renowned Swiss pianist **Francesco Piemontesi**, the program of the 74th Settimane Musicali, from September 4 to October 11, includes eleven main concerts in the evocative churches of San Francesco in Locarno and Collegio Papio in Ascona.

This edition's rich bill features the famous duo composed of **Charles Dutoit** and **Martha Argerich**, stars such as **Renaud Capuçon**, **Marc André Hamelin** (in a tribute to Alexis Weissenberg) or the famed **Emerson Quartet**, great orchestras such as the **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra** directed by the young conducting talent Lahav Shani, the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** (in an event dedicated to the influence of popular Hungarian music in the work of composers such as Liszt, Haydn, Bartok, Kodaly, and others), the **Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra** (at their first Ascona performance with a fascinating program dedicated to Sibelius and Nordic music), as well as the **Orchestra della Svizzera italiana**, whose artistic development - under the baton of principal conductor **Markus Poschner** - was recognised in 2018 by the prestigious International Classical Music Award (ICMA).

Two more concerts, dedicated to young European talent and a free concert for families (promoted by the Associazione degli Amici delle Settimane), round out the program: one new initiative that stands out this year is an extraordinary performance by acclaimed pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard**, who will present Messiaen's *Catalogue d'oiseaux* over the course of a special day in four separate venues between dawn and night time (see box).

Tickets (prices range from CHF 20.00 to 140.00 according to the concert and category) are available from 23 April at Ascona Locarno tourism branches and at all Ticketcorner sales points in Switzerland. Advance online ticket sales at www.settimane-musicali.ch.

For further information and reservations please call: + 41 91 759 76 65, or info@settimane-musicali.ch.

Official website www.settimane-musicali.ch.

Messiaen on the lakeshore at sunrise...

One of the twentieth century's most important composers, as well as a pianist and organist, **Olivier Messiaen** (1908-1992) was also a keen birdwatcher. His passion for ornithology led him to record the songs of French birds, and then to transcribe them, especially for piano. The most famous of these is his *Catalogue d'oiseaux*, to be performed outdoors at four times of the day. As part of the 74th Settimane Musicali di Ascona, this extremely evocative and rarely performed work will be presented by world-renowned pianist and twentieth-century specialist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard**, who studied under Messiaen. The first part of the work, which lasts over three hours in total, will be performed at sunrise on the lakefront (at the Lido), the second will be played at midday on Monte Verità, the third at sunset in the churchyard in Ronco Sopra Ascona, and the final part late in the evening at the Church of the Collegio Papio.

The 74th edition of the Musical Weeks in Ascona is **organised** by the Settimane Musicali Ascona Foundation (bringing together the regional Ascona-Locarno tourism organisation, the Amici delle Settimane Musicali association and the Patriziato of Ascona) together **with the support** of: Republic & Canton Ticino, Locarno's foundation for culture, several regional municipalities and the Ente Regionale per lo Sviluppo. **Sponsors:** Cornèr Bank, CORSI (cooperative society for Swiss television & radio), Migros Culture Percentage Ticino, Raiffeisen, Società Elettrica Sopracenerina. **Media partners:** RSI Rete Due, Radio Swiss Jazz, Corriere del Ticino, Tessiner Zeitung, SGA and Ticketcorner.

Program 2019

Wednesday 4 September
Chiesa San Francesco
Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra
Lahav Shani conductor e piano
(Mozart, Bruckner)

Domenica 8 September
Lido Ascona-Monte Verità- RoncoS/Ascona – Chiesa Collegio Papio
Pierre-Laurent Aimard piano
(Messiaen)

Monday 9 September
Chiesa San Francesco
Orchestra della Svizzera italiana
Charles Dutoit conductor
Martha Argerich piano
(Ravel Beethoven Haydn)

Friday 13 September
Chiesa Collegio Papio
La Cetra Barockorchester Basel
& AVES Ensemble der Schola Cantorum Basiliensis
Andrea Marcon conductor
(Monteverdi, Vespro Veneziano)

Monday 16 September
Chiesa Collegio Papio
Marc-André Hamelin piano
(Tedesco, Schumann, Weissenberg, Fauré, Chopin)

Wednesday 18 September
Chiesa San Francesco
Chamber Orchestra of Europe
Joshua Weilerstein conductor
Francesco Piemontesi piano
(Hydn, Liszt, Brahms, Bartok, Golijov, Kodaly)

Monday 23 September
Chiesa Collegio Papio
Ensemble Zefiro
(Mozart)

Friday 27 September
Chiesa Collegio Papio
Renaud Capuçon violin
Francesco Piemontesi piano
(Mozart, Franck)

Settimane musicali Ascona

Wednesday 2 October
Chiesa San Francesco
Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra
Hannu Lintu conductor
Elina Vähälä violin
(Fagerlund, Sibelius, Brahms)

Friday 4 October
Chiesa Collegio Papio
Quartetto Emerson
Paul Meyer clarinet
(Mozart, Dvorak)

Friday 11 October
Chiesa San Francesco
Orchestra della Svizzera italiana
Markus Poschner conductor
Pierre-Laurent Aimard piano
(Messiaen, Bartok, Haydn)

Special Events

Friday 6 September
Palacinema Locarno
Documentary film première
with Francesco Piemontesi
“Les Années de Pèlerinage – Italie”

Saturday 21 September
Palazzo Sopracenerina
Filippo Gorini piano
(Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann)

Saturday 28 September
Palazzo Sopracenerina
Alec Frank-Gemmill french horn
Daniel Grimwood piano
(Brahms, Macmillan, Schumann)

Saturday 5 October
Gran Rex Locarno
La storia del diavoletto che voleva essere un angioletto
Camerata dei Castelli
Free event for children and families

Full programme
www.settimane-musicali.ch