

## **The 17th Zermatt Music Festival & Academy will take place on 8–19 September 2021**

Dear members of the public, dear partners,

We are absolutely delighted to announce that this year's festival programme will include even more events than usual.

Despite very difficult circumstances, we were lucky enough to be able to organise the Zermatt Music Festival & Academy in September 2020. The authorities in Zermatt really appreciated our efforts, especially as the festival was the only cultural event to take place in the village last summer. For 2021, the Zermatt Music Festival & Academy has prepared a programme that can be adapted to suit the circumstances, taking account of the musicians and the members of the academy. Last year's festival showed that a variable programme works perfectly. The Fondation Patrick & Lina Drahi welcomed our efforts to ensure that last year's festival went ahead, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the foundation for its generous support.

### **The call of the mountain**

The festival will continue its long-standing collaboration with the Fondation Pierre Gianadda on 8 September when Italian pianist **Pietro De Maria** will perform a solo recital including works by Chopin, Tchaikovsky/Pletnev, Liszt, and Caillebotte. Incidentally, De Maria is also a Decca recording artist and teacher at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Established in 2005, the **Chiaroscuro Quartet** performs works from the High Classical period in a historically faithful, yet non-dogmatic way. The hallmark of a Chiaroscuro Quartet performance is an emotional interpretation of the music that is bursting with enthusiasm and freshness, opening up a new perspective on string quartets. The quartet will also perform works by Haydn and Beethoven at the Heinz Julen Loft on 9 September.

This year, the "Matterhorn Serenades" series will include four concerts. The concept behind this series is very straightforward: each free, short, outdoor concert will take place from 4.30 to 5 p.m. on the church square against the dramatic backdrop of the Matterhorn. The first will take place on 10 September and will feature **Geneva Brass**. The second is scheduled for 11 September and will feature the **Oberwalliser Vokalensemble** and its musical director **Hansruedi Kämpfen**. The third honours the magnificent humanist project that brings people together, **Les Concerts du cœur**, with its founder **Laure Barras** from the canton of Valais, on 17 September. The fourth and final concert in the series will take place on 18 September and will include the extreme quartet that will perform as part of the **Tournée des refuges** (the tour of mountain refuges).

### **In Storm and Ice**

The festival will officially open on 10 September with a concert unlike any other to mark the 100th anniversary – almost exactly to the day – of the premiere screening of the film **In Sturm und Eis** (In Storm and Ice) in Berlin on 22 September 1921. This epic film by Arnold Fanck, the German pioneer of mountain films, was the first film in history to be shot (in October 1920) at an altitude of over 4,000 m and boasts an original score by Paul Hindemith. It is the leitmotif of the Zermatt Festival. This year, the public will be able to enjoy an orchestral version of Hindemith's score performed by the **Scharoun Ensemble** and the orchestra of the Zermatt Festival under **Stanley Dodds**, violinist with the Berlin Philharmonic and the principal conductor of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra. This concert event will begin with an introduction by **Stefanie**

**Latzin**, the grand-daughter of Ilse Rohde (one of the two actors in the film), who knew her grandmother well and will speak about this extraordinary woman.

The second major concert of the first weekend at the Church of St Mauritius on 11 September will bring together the young American pianist **Kit Armstrong** and first concertmaster with the Berlin Philharmonic, **Noah Bendix-Balgley**. A protégé of Alfred Brendel, Armstrong is also a composer in his own right and holds a Master of Science degree in pure mathematics from the Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris. He will perform two Bach concertos. The mass on 12 September is a rarely performed work, namely *Misa a Buenos Aires* by Martín Palmeri, a tango mass performed by the Oberwalliser Vokalensemble and its director Hansruedi Kämpfen with the **Trio Nota Bene** and bandoneon player **Luciano Jungman**.

### **Return to Riffelalp**

2021 will also see the festival return to the Riffelalp Chapel, which was closed in 2020. Kit Armstrong, the oboist **Dominik Wollenweber**, and the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin will perform works by Saint-Saëns, Dowland, Byrd, and Mozart. The Sunday programme continues at Riffelalp with a solo recital by the jazz pianist **Yannick Delez** as part of our new Solo Sessions series and at the Stockalper Palace in Brig with a solo recital by the cellist **Claudio Bohórquez**, winner of the International Pablo Casals Cello Competition. It is worth remembering that the legendary Catalan cellist Pablo Casals popularised Bach at a time when the German composer's works were no longer being played. Casals was also one of the first artists to record Bach's works. In doing so, he inspired so many other musicians and composers (notably Britten and Cassadó) to write this kind of music for unaccompanied cello. A solo suite by Cassadó will also be performed in Brig. Claudio Bohórquez will continue his homage to Casals, Bach, and Cassadó with the concert Solo Session II at the chapel in Winkelmaten (a first!). The Winkelmaten Chapel, which was built in 1607, is a smaller version of the old village church in Zermatt. The return to the Riffelalp Chapel will end on 19 September with the Scharoun Ensemble and the German soprano Hanna-Elisabeth Müller performing works by Haydn.

### **The academy**

The educational dimension of the festival remains to the fore. The young musicians who attend the academy and make up the festival orchestra come from all over the world. They are all exceptionally talented and were selected for Zermatt on the basis of a detailed written application. It is worth noting that a record 760 applications were received this year – that's five times the normal number! The **master class** at the Matterhorn Museum on 13 September, which will be open to the public, and the **concerts given by the members of the academy** are sure to be some of the highlights of the festival. At three chamber music concerts (14, 15, and 16 September), the students at the Zermatt Festival Academy will present the results of their week of hard work under the tutelage of the members of the Scharoun Ensemble.

### **Song, dance, percussion, jazz, tapas ... and raclette**

Another new addition to this year's festival programme is the Monday Modern series, which kicks off with the duo **Percussion CYTi** and a contemporary music programme at the Backstage Hotel Vernissage on 13 September. Every year, the Zermatt Festival organises a concert for the schoolchildren of Zermatt. On 14 September 2021, the group **SSASSA** will perform *Virelangue*, an interactive experience featuring song and dance from all over the world and the singer Laure Barras. On 15 September, the blue hour will be brought to life by the sounds and

rhythms of Latin jazz performed by the musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic, the academy, and special festival guests at the Hotel Sonne. The Raclette Jam Session will bring together musicians from the Mountain Refuge Tour and other musicians from the Zermatt Festival at Hotel Cervo.

### **The Mountain Refuge Tour to Monte Rosa**

If, while you are hiking up a mountain, crossing a glacier, or strolling along a mountain path, you happen to pass some rather unusual hikers with odd backpacks singing softly to themselves in Russian, Sicilian or Brazilian Portuguese, don't hesitate: turn around and follow them! When evening falls, they will stop at a mountain refuge and, gathering beneath the light or around the stove, will perform their rich and moving music for you. Created in 2013, the Mountain Refuge Tour was born of a desire to arrange a walking concert tour in the mountains. The aim of the tour is to make it possible for high-quality acoustic music to be performed in unusual locations. This year, the Zermatt Festival is offering you a truly sensational experience: on 16 and 17 September, join four extreme musicians as they follow in the footsteps of Arnold Fanck: cross the Gorner Glacier with **Richard Lehner** (alpine mountain guide who has over 100 climbs under his belt, is the guardian of the Monte Rosa mountain refuge, and director of the Hôtel Basecamp), attend a live concert, and spend the night in the Monte Rosa refuge – a breath-taking location. Don't miss this unique opportunity!

### **Two concerts at the St. Mauritius Church and a mass at the English Church will wrap up the festival**

Wolfram Brandl, first concertmaster of the Staatskapelle Berlin, and the cellist Claudio Bohórquez, both of whom are members of the Scharoun Ensemble, invite you to join them on a romantic voyage on 17 September. They will perform works by Tchaikovsky and Bizet. Mozart will be the featured composer of the main concert on 18 September with Wolfram Brandl performing Concerto No. 1 in B-flat major and the young German soprano Hanna-Elisabeth Müller singing Mozart arias.

For another divine encounter, don't miss the performance by the **Chapelle des Ducs de Savoie** at the English Church in Zermatt on Sunday, 19 September.

In order to ensure safe and pleasant working conditions for everyone, the Festival Committee requires each member of the team and all participants to be vaccinated. There will be more information about the guidelines relating to audiences in July when the ticket office opens. Before we finish, we would like to remind you that the Zermatt Festival is continuing its policy of affordable single-price tickets (i.e. without price categories). For health reasons and in order to make the most of the evenings, the festival has decided that there will be no intervals at any of the concerts. Tickets will go on sale on our website on 1 July. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

We wish you a good summer and hope to see you soon in Zermatt!