

Settimane musicali Ascona

The **Musical Weeks of Ascona** (September 5 to October 14) will be opening their 71st edition with the **London Symphony**. Among some of this edition's stars: **Philippe Jaroussky**, the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** and the great American pianist **Stephen Kovacevich** – Presale starts today

ASCONA, SWITZERLAND, MAY 2016 - The Musical Weeks of Ascona, the oldest classical music event in the Canton of Ticino, celebrate their **71st edition from September 5 to October 14, 2016**. A total of thirteen concerts will be held in the festival's two evocative settings: the church of the Collegio Papio in Ascona for chamber concerts and the San Francesco church in Locarno for symphonic concerts.

The 71st edition, directed by **Francesco Piemontesi**, focuses on one of the the most fascinating and dense moments of the entire history of music, the **first half of the 20th century**, with a particular reference to **Impressionist** composers such as Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. In this context one cannot not mention musicians such as Shostakovich and Janacek, whose highly individual language has helped form the music aesthetics of future generations, without ascribing them to a specific school.

Internationally renowned orchestras such as **the London Symphony** directed by **Gianandrea Noseda** (who will inaugurate the festival on September 5), the **Czech Philharmonic** directed by **Jiří Bělohlávek** (September 8) or the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** led by **Sir Roger Norrington** (September 28), will alternate with chamber groups such as the acclaimed **Pavel Haas Quartet** (October 11) or the **Ensemble Zefiro** at the final concert on October 14, with a program dedicated to four Bach Suites.

World famous star, countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** will perform on September 30, together with the **Coro della Radiotelevisione Svizzera** and the **Barocchisti** directed by **Diego Fasolis**, in an ad hoc program dedicated to the myth of Orpheus.

This edition's artist in residence will be the great American pianist **Stephen Kovacevich**, in a recital in Ascona on September 12 and, on September 16, alongside violinist **Alina Ibragimova** and pianist **Francesco Piemontesi**. Both evenings will be mainly dedicated to the late Romantics.

For the first time at the Musical Weeks we will also enjoy the presence of young musicians who have started an already brilliant concert career: for instance **Jérémie Rhorer** (who will direct the **Cercle de l'Harmonie** on October 2), violinist **Hilary Hahn** (with the Czech Philharmonic) and the above mentioned Alina Ibragimova, who will also perform with the **Orchestra della Svizzera italiana (OSI)** on September 23. The OSI will, as usual, also perform a second concert, on October 7, with its new director **Markus Poschner** and pianist **Imogen Cooper**.

Finally the **Début Series** will include two events, on Saturday morning at the Sopracenerina in Locarno, with young artists on the road to success: on September 24 the **David Pia/ Kim Da Sol/ Christel Lee** trio and, on October 1, Korean pianist **William Youn**.

As we are constantly seeking ways to improve the general quality of our offer, we are proud to mention the new transparent acoustic wall in the San Francesco Church and a padding for the benches at the Collegio Papiro Church, for the audience's increased comfort.

Tickets (with prices varying by category/concert from 20.00 to 140.00 CHF) are available from May 2 at the Ascona Locarno Tourism offices and at all Ticketcorner points of sale, throughout Switzerland. Presale online at: www.settimane-musicali.ch.

For more information and for reservations tel. +41 91 759 76 65, or info@settimane-musicali.ch. **Official website** www.settimane-musicali.ch.

The 71st edition is organized by the **Musical Weeks of Ascona Foundation** (that brings together the Organizzazione turistica Lago Maggiore e Valli, the Ascona municipality, the Association Friends of the Musical Weeks and the Ascona Patriziato), **with the support of:** Republic and Canton of Ticino (Swiss Funds), Foundation for culture in the Locarno region, Municipalities of Brione s/Minusio, Losone, Minusio, Muralto, Locarno, and Orselina. **Sponsor:** Castello del Sole, Credit Suisse, Coop Cultura, Cornè Banca, CORSI, Migros Culture Percentage and Raiffeisen. **Media partner:** RSI Rete Due, Tessiner Zeitung, il Caffè, La Regione Ticino, SGA, Ticketcorner.

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Program 2016

Monday 5 September

London Symphony Orchestra

Gianandrea Noseda, direttore

Philip Cobb, tromba

G. Verdi: Overture dai vespri siciliani

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R. Wagner: Preludio dai "Meistersinger" WWV 96

J. Haydn: Concerto per tromba e orchestra Hob.VIIe:1

S. Rachmaninov: Sinfonia n. 2 op. 27

Thursday 8 September

Czech Philharmonic Orchestra

Jiří Bělohlávek, direttore

Hilary Hahn, violino

L. Janáček: Suite dall'opera "La piccola volpe astuta"

W.A. Mozart: Concerto per violino no. 5, K 219

A. Dvorak: Trilogia

Ouverture "Nel Regno della Natura" op. 91

Ouverture "Carnaval" op. 92

Ouverture "Otello" op. 93

Monday 12 September

Stephen Kovacevich, pianoforte

Artist in residence

A. Berg: Sonata op. 1

J.S. Bach: Partita n. 4, BWV 828

F. Schubert: Sonata in la maggiore, D. 959

Friday 16 September

Stephen Kovacevich, pianoforte

Alina Ibragimova, violino

Francesco Piemontesi, pianoforte

W. A. Mozart: Sonata per violino e pianoforte K 304

J. Brahms: Sonata per violino e pianoforte n.1 op.78

S.Rachmaninoff: Danze Sinfoniche op. 45

Friday 23 September

Orchestra della Svizzera italiana

Thierry Fischer, direttore

Alina Ibragimova, violino

G. Mahler: Adagietto dalla Sinfonia n. 5

D. Shostakovich: Concerto per violino e orchestra n. 2 op.129

L.v. Beethoven: Sinfonia n.6 op. 68, Pastorale

Saturday 24 September

Debut I

Christel Lee, violino

Davide Pia, violoncello

Da Sol, pianoforte

M. Ravel: Piano Trio

Moderé

Pantoum: Assez vif

Passacaille : Très large

Final : Animé

A. Schönberg: Verklärte Nacht, op. 4 (versione per trio con pianoforte di Eduard Steuerman)

Wednesday 28 September

Chamber Orchestra of Europe

Sir Roger Norrington, direttore

Francesco Piemontesi, pianoforte

J. Haydn: Sinfonia n. 83 Hob. I:83

L.v. Beethoven: Concerto per pianoforte n. 3 op.37

J. Haydn: Sinfonia n. 103 Hob. I:103

Friday 30 September

Coro della Radiotelevisione Svizzera italiana

I Barocchisti

Diego Fasolis, direttore

Philippe Jaroussky, controtenore

“Il mito di Orfeo”

Opere di:

Antonio Sartorio

Luigi Rossi

Claudio Monteverdi

Christoph Willibald Gluck

Saturday 1 ottobre

Debut II

William Youn, pianoforte

J. Brahms: Variazioni su un tema di Robert Schumann op. 9

A.v. Zemlinsky: (Albumblatt) Erinnerungen aus Wien Skizze

R. Schumann: Humoreske op. 20

Monday 3 ottobre

Le Cercle de l'Harmonie

Jérémie Rhorer, direttore

W.A. Mozart:

Sinfonia n. 39 K 543

Sinfonia n. 40 K 550

Sinfonia n. 41 K 551

Friday 7 ottobre

Orchestra della Svizzera italiana

Markus Poschner, direttore

Imogen Cooper, pianoforte

L.v. Beethoven: Prometeo, ouverture op. 43

W. A. Mozart: Concerto per pianoforte e orchestra n. 25 K 503

L. v. Beethoven: Sinfonia n. 1 op. 21

Tuesday 11 ottobre

Quartetto Pavel Haas

B. Martinů: Quartetto n. 3 H. 183

A. Dvorák: Quartetto n. 12 op. 96 B. 179 'Americano'

L.v. Beethoven: Quartetto n. 12 op. 127

Friday 14 ottobre

Ensemble Zefiro

J.S. Bach:

Ouverture BWV 1069

Ouverture BWV 1067

Ouverture BWV 1066

Ouverture BWV 1068

Modifiche nel programma possibili, Changements de programme possibles,
Programmänderungen vorbehalten, Programme subject to changes