

78°
Settimane
musicali
Ascona



Orchestra della Svizzera italiana



78th Settimane Musicali di Ascona to begin with a large-scale concert for peace

Performers will include Martha Argerich and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen. The highly varied and largely revamped programme features welcome returns, prestigious débuts and the chance to rediscover some great artists. Ascona 2023, which runs from 5 September to 17 October, has a special focus on French music.

The tragic events of the war in Ukraine are reflected in the programme for the 78th Settimane Musicali di Ascona, which kicks off on 5 September with an extraordinary Concert for Peace featuring Martha Argerich, Francesco Piemontesi and the Peace Orchestra Project, a symphony orchestra conducted by Ricardo Castro featuring young musicians from Brazil, Italy and other countries. The evening will include the Swiss première of Nicola Capogrande's *Symphony No. 2 "Un Mondo Nuovo"*, dedicated to Europe at war.

Ticino's prestigious festival, directed by Francesco Piemontesi, returns in 2023 **from 5 September to 17 October** with **no fewer than 14 events** featuring some of the biggest global names in classical music. There are many new experiences to look forward to in a **widely revamped and interesting line-up**, with almost half of the artists and orchestras invited performing at the festival for the first time.

It will be wide-ranging **musically** and with a few surprises thrown in too, offering everything from ancient music to twentieth-century compositions and from great concertos to chamber music. The distinctive programme combines emblematic works like Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and traditional repertoire by Beethoven, Mozart and Tchaikovsky with pieces by lesser-known figures, twentieth-century composers (including two incredible works by Ligeti in the centenary of his birth) and even a Swiss première.

Piemontesi has also announced that, following the ample space given to German music in recent festivals, this year the focus will be on **French music**. Alongside composers like Francis Poulenc and the nation's two leading twentieth-century composers, Ravel and Debussy, space is also given over in the line-up to less familiar names, including Florent Schmitt and André Jolivet.

The programme presents numerous **top-level soloists**, a mix of prestigious débuts, welcome returns and opportunities to rediscover some great artists. As well as the legendary **Martha Argerich** and **Francesco Piemontesi**, the line-up includes the world-renowned pianists **Bertrand Chamayou**, **Olli Mustonen** and the extraordinary **Viktoria Postnikova**, the former touring partner of Yehudi Menuhin who for years performed on a permanent basis with her husband Gennady Rozhdestvensky, whom the Ascona audience will be able to rediscover in a highly anticipated and rare recital on **25 September**.

Other illustrious names include the greatest living trumpeter **Håkan Hardenberger**, who has almost an entire concert dedicated to him, and the violinists **Isabelle Faust**, young prodigy **Stephen Waarts** and Grammy award-winner **Augustin Hadelich**, who will perform alongside **Francesco Piemontesi**, cellist **Sonia Wieder-Atherton**, pianist **Imogen Cooper** and the superlative British tenor **Ian Bostridge** from the highly respected chamber music ensemble **Piemontesi & Friends**, which will play three concerts dedicated to Beethoven, Ravel and Debussy and Schubert from 8 to 10 September.



As mentioned above, Argerich and Piemontesi will open the festival on **5 September** with an extraordinary **Concert for Peace** featuring a very special symphony orchestra, the **Peace Orchestra Project**, which will bring together musicians from Brazil, Italy and other countries, all aged between 18 and 25, under the baton of **Ricardo Castro**. They will perform Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*, *Symphony No. 2* by Ukrainian composer Valentin Silvestrov, Poulenc's *Concerto in D Minor for Two Pianos and Orchestra* and **the Swiss première** of Nicola Capogrande's *Symphony No. 2 "Un Mondo Nuovo"*, which he wrote in April 2022 as an "attempt to offer a musical response to the anguish that has afflicted our continent over the past few months and that seems to jeopardise the millennia-old civilisation we have built, defended and renewed for centuries".

Another highlight of the 2023 programme is the return, following a year's sabbatical, of the **Orchestra della Svizzera italiana**, which will give two concerts (on **18 September** and **6 October**) with some outstanding soloists (the aforementioned Chamayou, Hardenberger and Waarts), a highly original programme and two new conductors: the acclaimed **Fabien Gabel** and young rising star from Uzbekistan **Aziz Shokhakimov**.

Two other large ensembles will once more grace the stage of the church of San Francesco in Locarno: the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich with Olli Mustonen and principal conductor **Paavo Järvi** on the podium for an evening dedicated entirely to Beethoven (**22 September**), and a grand event featuring the almost 100 musicians and singers of the **La Cetra Barockorchester & Vokalensemble Basel**, conducted by **Andrea Marcon**, which on **3 October** will perform one of the cornerstones of Bach's repertoire and of music in general, the monumental *Mass in B Minor*.

Two groups appearing for the very first time are the **Goldmund Quartet** (**29 September**) and one of today's most unique and in-demand chamber orchestras, **Les Siècles**, conducted by **François-Xavier Roth**, which on **14 September** will present Mozart's radiant *Jupiter* symphony and two of Ligeti's most important compositions, played on period instruments, with unique results. The soloist for this unmissable evening will be Isabelle Faust.

The electrifying **Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen**, which was founded in the 1980s and established its reputation as one of the leading names in classical music through its incredible programming, memorable guests and unique projects, conducted on this occasion by **Jérémie Rhorer**, has the honour of performing the closing concert on **17 October**. The selection of music chosen for the evening is truly delightful, featuring **Francesco Piemontesi** performing Ravel's *Concerto in G Major* followed in the second half by Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony.

Two well-established traditions making a return are the Saturday morning **Début Series** dedicated to talented young musicians (featuring the French **Trio Zeliha** on **23 September** and violinist **Anna Agafia Egholm** on **6 October**) and the **free children's concert** at the GranRex on **16 September**, a theatre and music show with Controsenso Teatro and the Quadrophobia Wind Quartet, with financial support from the Friends of the Settimane Musicali.

Pre-sale from 19 April and 7:30 pm start time

The **7:30 pm concert start time**, introduced as an experiment last year, is being repeated in 2023, with the exception of the opening concert. The festival's historic venues are also the same as previous years: the evocative churches of San Francesco in Locarno for the orchestral concerts and Collegio Papio in Ascona for chamber music, and the Palazzo della Sopracenerina in Locarno for the two concerts in the Début Series.



Tickets go on pre-sale **from 19 April** at Ascona Locarno Tourism offices and from **Ticketcorner**. Online pre-sale at www.settimane-musicali.ch. For information and tickets: tel. +41 91 759 76 65 or email info@settimane-musicali.ch.

SPONSORS

The 78th Settimane Musicali is organised by the Settimane Musicali Ascona Foundation, which brings together **Ascona Locarno Tourism**, the **Municipality of Ascona**, the **Friends of the Settimane Musicali Association** and the **Patriciate of Ascona**

With the support of: the **Republic and Canton of Ticino** (Swisslos Funds), the **Locarnese Culture Foundation** and the **municipalities of Brione sopra Minusio, Locarno, Losone, Minusio, Muralto, Orselina and Brissago**

Sponsors: **Cornè Banca, Banca CIC, Freunde der Alten Musik**

Host Broadcaster: **RSI Rete Due**

Media Partner: **Musik & Theater, Corriere del Ticino, Tessiner Zeitung**

Partner: **Interserv AG, SGA, Ticketcorner, Società Elettrica Sopracenerina**

Official website: www.settimane-musicali.ch



FULL PROGRAMME

Tuesday 5 September

8 pm Church of San Francesco

Peace Orchestra Project

Ricardo Castro, conductor

Martha Argerich, piano

Francesco Piemontesi, piano

Valentin Silvestrov Symphony No. 2

Francis Poulenc Concerto in D Minor for Two Pianos and Orchestra

Nicola Campogrande Symphony No. 2 "Un Mondo Nuovo" (2022)

Igor Stravinsky Firebird Suite (1919 version)

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 September

THREE CONCERTS!

7:30 p.m.

Collegio Papio church

Piemontesi & Friends

Ian Bostridge, tenor

Imogen Cooper, piano

Augustin Hadelich, violin

Sonia Wieder-Atherton, cello

Francesco Piemontesi, piano

Thursday 14 September

7:30 pm Church of San Francesco

Les Siècles

François-Xavier Roth, conductor

Isabelle Faust, violin

György Ligeti Concert Românesc - Concerto for Violin and Orchestra

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Symphony No. 41 K. 551

Saturday 16 September

5 pm GranRex Locarno

Free family show

"Mastro Ezechiele"

Controsenso Teatro

Quadrophobia Wind Quartet

Monday 18 September

7:30 pm Church of San Francesco

Orchestra della Svizzera italiana

Fabien Gabel, conductor

Håkan Hardenberger, trumpet

Bertrand Chamayou, piano

Florent Schmitt Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra op. 113

Dmitri Shostakovich Concerto No. 1 op. 35 for Piano, Trumpet and Orchestra

André Jolivet Concertino for Trumpet, Piano and String Orchestra

Francis Poulenc Sinfonietta



Friday 22 September

7:30 pm Church of San Francesco

Tonhalle-Orchester

Paavo Järvi, conductor

Olli Mustonen, piano

Ludwig van Beethoven

Die Weihe des Hauses, op.124 – Overture - Concerto No. 6 op. 61 - Symphony No. 2 op. 36

Saturday 23 September

11 am Sala della Sopracenerina

Début Series

Trio Zeliha

Felix Mendelssohn Trio No. 1 op. 49

Dmitri Shostakovich Trio No. 2 op. 67

Monday 25 September

7:30 pm Collegio Papio church

Viktoria Postnikova, piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Fantasia in C Minor K. 475 - Fantasia in D Minor K. 397 - Rondo in A Minor K. 511 - Rondo in D Major K. 485

Sonata no. 9 in D major K. 311

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky The Seasons, op. 37°

Friday 29 September

7:30 pm Collegio Papio church

Goldmund Quartet

Johann Sebastian Bach Contrapuncti 1-4 from "The Art of Fugue"

Dmitri Shostakovich Quartet No. 8 op. 110.

Robert Schumann Quartet No. 3 op. 41

Tuesday 3 October

7:30 pm Church of San Francesco

La Cetra Barockorchester & Vokalensemble Basel

Andrea Marcon, conductor

Hana Blazikova, soprano

Miriam Feuersinger, soprano

Carlos Mena, alto

Jakob Pilgram, tenor

Tobias Berndt, bass

Johann Sebastian Bach Mass in B Minor BWV 232

Friday 6 October

7:30 pm Collegio Papio church

Orchestra della Svizzera italiana

Aziz Shokakimov, conductor

Stephen Waarts, violin

Franz Joseph Haydn Symphony No. 100, "Military" Hob. I:100

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Concerto for Violin and Orchestra No. 4 in D Major K. 218



Dmitri Shostakovich Symphony No. 9 op. 70

Saturday 7 October

11 am Sala della Sopracenerina

Début Series

Anna Agafia Egholm, violin

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750) Partita No. 2 BWV 1004

Eugène Ysaÿe Sonata No. 5 op. 27

Igor Stravinsky Elegy

Carl Nielsen Prelude, Theme and Variations op. 48

Fritz Kreisler Recitativo und Scherzo-Caprice op. 6

Tuesday 17 October

7:30 pm Church of San Francesco

Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen

Jérémie Rhorer, conductor

Francesco Piemontesi, piano

Richard Strauss Metamorphosen

Maurice Ravel Piano Concerto in G Major

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 op. 36