

Verbier festival



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PRESS FOLDER 23rd EDITION

Fondation du Verbier Festival

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2016 PRESS FOLDER SUMMARY

MUSICAL EXCELLENCE, FIRST AND FOREMOST	3
2016 PROGRAMME	
A radiant opening night	
Charles Dutoit conducts the <i>Symphonie Fantastique</i> , Kyung Wha Chung opens the Festival	4
Operas-in-concert	
Bizet's <i>Carmen</i> , directed by Charles Dutoit with Kate Aldrich in the lead role	5
Verdi's <i>Falstaff</i> , with Bryn Terfel in one of his finest roles	6
The highlights of the 23rd Festival	
Recital by the pianist Yuja Wang	7
Beethoven's <i>Emperor Concerto</i> , performed and conducted by András Schiff	8
Daniil Trifonov's performance of his own concerto	9
An evening dedicated to Wagner, with Iván Fischer and the sublime soprano Anja Kampe	10
Mahler's <i>Symphony No. 3</i> , conducted by the renowned Michael Tilson Thomas	11
The Festival's Music Directors	
Charles Dutoit, Daniel Harding	12
Gábor Takács-Nagy	13
The 'Verbier Generation' at the summit	
Emöke Baráth, Quatuor Ebène	14
Andreas Ottensamer, Sylvia Schwartz	15
Daniil Trifonov	9
Yuja Wang	7
Rising stars	
Behzod Abduraimov, Benjamin Beilman	16
Ying Fang	17
Lukas Geniušas, George Li	18
Daniel Lozakovitj	19
Evenings full of rhythm	
Passionate concert with de Miloš, Andreas Ottensamer and Ksenija Sidorova	20
World music: Dianne Reeves, Les Gipsy Kings	21
THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS 23rd EDITION	22
SUCCESS STORIES	
Success Stories of the Verbier Festival Academy	23
Success Stories of the Orchestras	24
THE PINNACLES OF EXCELLENCE	
Verbier Festival Academy (VFA)	27
Verbier Festival Orchestras (VFO/ VFCO)	28
Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra (VFJO)	29
MARTIN T:SON ENGSTROEM, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	30
THE VERBIER EXPERIENCE	31
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MAIN SPONSOR & 10 YEARS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDICI.TV	32
TICKET OFFICE INFORMATION	33
PRESS ACCREDITATIONS AT THE 2016 VERBIER FESTIVAL	34
INTERVIEW REQUESTS & PRESS CONTACTS	35

MUSICAL EXCELLENCE, FIRST AND FOREMOST

Founder of and festival booker for the Verbier Festival since 1994, my philosophy has remained unchanged: to invite the greatest classical musicians alongside the most talented young artists to perform in an exceptional alpine setting. Today, the Festival owes its success as much to the quality of its programme as to the beautifully intimate surroundings of the village of Verbier.

With almost 60 concerts in 17 days, the Festival promises several unmissable evenings this year. The violinist **Kyung Wha Chung** opens the Festival under the baton of **Charles Dutoit**, who then conducts Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*. Among other highlights are: a recital by **Yuja Wang**, Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto* performed by the pianist and conductor **András Schiff**, a performance of **Daniil Trifonov's** own concerto, an evening entirely dedicated to Wagner conducted by **Iván Fischer** and Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* under the baton of **Michael Tilson Thomas**.

Alongside the symphonic and chamber music programmes, I am offering two operas-in-concert to the public: *Carmen* and *Falstaff*, with **Bryn Terfel** in the leading role. Other highly anticipated unforgettable moments are: **Miloš'** passionate recital at the Church and the concerts of the legendary **Gipsy Kings** and the stunning **Dianne Reeves**.

This year, there is a special focus on artists from the «Verbier Generation»: **Daniil Trifonov**, **Yuja Wang**, **Emőke Baráth**, **Quatuor Ébène**, **Andreas Ottensamer** and **Sylvia Schwartz**. These musicians are regularly invited to Verbier and can be said to have grown up with the Festival. It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome them today as accomplished artists at the height of their careers.

Music education is particularly important to me and, as every year, great masters are invited to coach or conduct young musicians from **the Verbier Festival Academy**, **the Verbier Festival Orchestras** and **the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra**. Throughout the Festival, the audience can follow the progress of these young artists at masterclasses and public rehearsals.

Finally, in addition to musical activities, nature lovers and outdoor activities enthusiasts can discover the magnificent region of Verbier on foot, by bike or paraglider.

All these reasons, I hope, will contribute to making your visit to the Verbier Festival both unmissable and unforgettable.

My team and I are hard at work to make your visit to the Verbier Festival unforgettable.

Martin T:son Engstroem

Founder and Executive Director



The Salle des Combins.



The Church.

2016 PROGRAMME

A RADIANT OPENING NIGHT

CHARLES DUTOIT

conducts the *Symphonie Fantastique*,

KYUNG WHA CHUNG

plays in the opening concert

FRIDAY 22 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Charles DUTOIT Conductor

Kyung Wha CHUNG Violin

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77

Interval

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Symphonie Fantastique op.14



Let us give honour where honour is due to Charles Dutoit, the current Music Director of the Verbier Festival Orchestra, who opens this 23rd Festival with an evening highlighting Romanticism. As his 80th birthday approaches, the maestro has never appeared so dynamic and inspired, with a unique energy which he communicates to the Verbier Festival Orchestra's young musicians, particularly when he touches upon his favourite repertoire - 19th century music.

He is accompanied by the South Korean violinist, Kyung Wha Chung, who has recently, and successfully, returned to the European musical scene after 12 years of absence, and with whom he has worked on numerous occasions, notably in three superb recordings with Decca. The conductor begins with Brahms' *Violin Concerto*, a masterpiece of virtuosity with incomparable melodic richness, before returning to one of his showpieces, Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, in which his baton full of passion and rigour has already performed wonders, on stage and on record.

Two living legends of the musical scene, for two apogees of Romanticism, which place this 2016 Festival under the banners of excellence and passion.

OPERAS-IN-CONCERT

Bizet's *Carmen*,
 conducted by **CHARLES DUTOIT**,
 with **KATE ALDRICH** in the leading role

MONDAY 25 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

Charles DUTOIT Conductor

Kate ALDRICH (Carmen)

Dmytro POPOV (Don José)

Kyle KETELSEN (Escamillo)

Sylvia SCHWARTZ (Micaëla)

Choir «MASTER VOICES»*

(Music Director, Ted Sperling)

Choir «CANTIAMO»

FROM THE ECOLE DE CHANT DU HAUT-VALAIS

(Music Director, Hansruedi Kämpfen)

* formerly The Collegiate Chorale



Other roles still to be cast

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Carmen, opera in four acts.

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy.

Posterity took a comic revenge on the Parisian audience which attended the premiere of *Carmen*, Bizet's last masterpiece, in 1875. First snubbed, even rejected by his contemporaries, the hot-blooded Bohemian has since become the most famous operatic heroine in the world. The work's return to grace in the eyes of opera enthusiasts corresponds, without a doubt, to society's change in attitudes and customs. Indeed, it would have been impossible for the Parisian high society of the second half of the 19th century to approve of this sulphurous story about a gypsy turning the heads of military men, having dozens of lovers and enjoying a rather dissolute lifestyle. However, mentalities have changed and, with them, our appreciation of the Romantic composer's stunning music. This score, and its incredible tragic power, features some of the most beautiful pages ever written for mezzo-soprano, while the *opéra comique* genre (which alternates between spoken and sung dialogues) calls for exceptional acting skills.

Kate Aldrich handles with ease these vocal and theatrical demands. Named the «Carmen of her generation» by the exacting San Francisco Sentinel, the American, a specialist of French repertoire, has since lent her perfect features, her fiery temperament and her velvety voice to the beautiful Iberian on the most prestigious operatic stages - at the Metropolitan in New York, in Baden-Baden, Munich and, more recently, at the Chorégies in Orange.

Verdi's *Falstaff*,
with **BRYN TERFEL**
in one of his greatest roles

FRIDAY 29 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

Jesús LÓPEZ-COBOS Conductor

Bryn TERFEL (Falstaff)

Luca SALSI (Ford)

Erika GRIMALDI (Alice Ford)

Ying FANG (Nannetta)

Roxana CONSTANTINESCU (Meg Page)

Ekaterina SEMENCHUK (Quickly)

Javier CAMARENA (Fenton)

David SHIPLEY (Pistola)

OBERWALLISER VOKALENSEMBLE

(Music Director, Hansruedi Kämpfen)

Claudio DESDERI Stage Director



Other roles still to be cast

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Falstaff, *Commedia lirica* in three acts

Libretto by Arrigo Boito, based on Shakespeare

« Everything in the world is a joke. Man is born a jester. » This popular wisdom concludes the 80 year old Verdi's last opera. Premiered in 1922, *Falstaff* is without a doubt the composer's most accomplished and original masterpiece, yet it has preserved the sparkling appeal of Verdi's youthful works.

The action-packed libretto and the virtuosic score rely essentially on the quality of its title role: a bass-baritone, who is both a great comic actor and a masterful vocalist and who understands this colourful character's complexity.

Bryn Terfel is the perfect man for the job. After interpreting the role for over fifteen years in the most prestigious international opera houses, he continues to explore each nuance and investigates the psychological depths of this Shakespearian anti-hero.

With his 2001 recording of the opera under the baton of Claudio Abbado, the singer immediately joined the ranks of the best *Falstaffs* of his generation. The Welsh colossus clads this «musical conversation» with his stentorian yet tender voice whilst gratifying this cunning and conceited aristocrat with his inimitable charisma and a poignant dramatic depth.

Alongside this famed protagonist, the female characters – who lead the dance in this caustic opera buffa – are not to be outdone. The young Italian soprano, Erika Grimaldi, interprets the beautiful *Alice*, while the prude *Meg* and the mischievous *Madame Quickly* are sung by two well-known artists from today's lyrical stage: Roxana Constantinescu and Ekaterina Semenchuk, two sublime deep voices from the East.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 23rd FESTIVAL

Recital by pianist **YUJA WANG**

WEDNESDAY 27 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

Yuja WANG Piano

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Ballades No. 1 and No. 2, Op. 10

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Kreisleriana, Op. 16

Interval

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Piano sonata No. 29 in B-flat major, Op. 106
«Hammerklavier»



In 2008, the Verbier audience discovered the pianist, who, a few months earlier, had made a rave debut when replacing Martha Argerich at short notice in a concert in Boston. The young Chinese musician, only 21 years old, had already charmed the most exacting critics, who found the combination of virtuosity and maturity in her playing rare for such a precocious interpreter. However, she needed to prove her worth to the audience. Her breath-taking performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee* rapidly met with international success as the video received four million views on Youtube. This record immediately propelled the young woman under the spotlight: she is admired by music lovers worldwide for her powerful playing which has earned her the nickname «*flying fingers*».

Since then, in addition to being invited by the greatest conductors and the most prestigious concert halls worldwide, the pianist has returned nearly every summer to perform for the Verbier Festival's demanding but appreciative audience.

This year, besides two chamber music concerts, Yuja Wang gives a solo recital in which she showcases the magnitude of some of the greatest pieces from the Germanic Romantic repertoire: Schumann's *Kreisleriana*, Brahms' *first two Ballades*, and Beethoven's *Hammerklavier Sonata*.

The great **ANDRÁS SCHIFF**
performs and conducts Beethoven's
Emperor Concerto

THURSDAY 28 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
András SCHIFF Conductor and piano

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Piano concerto in D minor BWV 1052

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
Symphony No. 88 in G major

Interval

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Piano concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73 «Emperor»



It is hard to imagine, when listening to the sublime slow movement from Beethoven's last piano concerto, that it was composed during wartime. Vienna 1809, the German was forced to interrupt his composition as Napoleon's army bombed the city. Although we hesitate in labelling the composer a «Romantic», the first bars of this *adagio* are enough to consider their author a visionary: in this concerto, we can already hear Schumann and Chopin.

The subtlety of Beethoven's compositional voice does not elude the legendary pianist András Schiff, who recorded the five concertos over 20 years ago, alongside Bernard Haitink. The soloist has since decided to forgo conductors' opinions by taking on the challenge of conducting the work from his piano (which very few pianists would endeavour to do). He repeats this feat this summer in Verbier, by conducting not only the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra in Beethoven's sublime last concerto but also the *Concerto BWV 1052*, the emperor of Bach's concertos.

Last year, for his first visit, the descendant of the great Hungarian piano school enchanted the Verbier Festival's audience, first by performing the third concerto composed by his compatriot Béla Bartók, then during a solo recital during which his generosity and sensitivity to the pre-Romantic musical idiom moved the audience in the Church.

DANIIL TRIFONOV
performs his own concerto

SUNDAY 31 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Gábor TAKÁCS-NAGY Conductor

Daniil TRIFONOV Piano

Dimitri Chostakovitch (1906-1975)

Hamlet, suite Op. 32a

Daniil Trifonov (1991-)

Piano concerto

Interval

Piotr Ilyitch Tchaïkovski (1840–1893)

Symphony No. 2 in C minor, Op. 17 «Little Russian»
(1879 version)



A Russian soirée for the audience of the Salle des Combins! Together with the young pianist, born 25 years ago on the shores of the Volga, the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of its Music Director, Gábor Takács-Nagy, performs a programme featuring two major works by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky: *Hamlet* and the *Little Russian Symphony*. As proof of the Festival's confidence in the talent of this soloist, (he has been invited for the last four years to perform some of the most difficult pieces from the piano repertoire), these two giants of Slavic music are played alongside the world première of Daniil Trifonov's first concerto.

Therefore, after a solo recital and a chamber music concert, the young composer and performer reveals his first piano concerto to the curious music lovers at the Salle des Combins.

Laureate of one of the most prestigious international competitions and invited by the greatest orchestras, the prodigy charms with his brilliant playing, his fascinating maturity and the unique artistic identity he composes at each of his appearances.

Although the young man has been composing from the day he began playing the piano at only 5 years of age, he has been accepting hesitantly, especially during encores, to allow the audience into his own universe: a Romantically-inspired and, of course, typically Russian compositional style, filled with the ghosts of his ancestors. It is, thus, a beautiful gift that Daniil Trifonov offers at his last concert of the season.

An evening entirely dedicated to Wagner,
with **IVÁN FISCHER**
and the sublime soprano **ANJA KAMPE**

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Iván FISCHER Conductor

Anja KAMPE Soprano

Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Overture

Parsifal, Karfreitagszauber

Tristan und Isolde, Prélude and Liebestod

Interval

Richard Wagner

Götterdämmerung :

- Sonnenaufgang
- Siegfrieds Rheinfahrt
- Siegfrieds Todesmarch
- «Starke Scheite», Brünnhilde's last scene



Anja Kampe shone in the eyes and ears of the lyrical world in 2003 as an acclaimed Sieglinde in the memorable Washington National Opera's production of the *Valkyrie* alongside Plácido Domingo. This immediately confirmed her status as an accomplished Wagnerite, a kind of trophy awarded only to singers capable of allying vocal power, density of timbre and continuous phrasing.

After a stunning recording conducted by Valery Gergiev at the Mariinsky Theatre, Anja Kampe has since interpreted the most beautiful - but also the most difficult - roles of Bayreuth's master, becoming in turn a classic *Isolde* and *Brünnhilde*. With her commanding voice, the singer embodies her heroines with a dark and warm low register whilst preserving an exceptionally clear high register.

This memorable evening - like all Wagnerian experiences - is under the spell of the Italian soprano with German origins who performs an open programme with orchestral passages from the *Meistersinger* and *Parsifal*. A specialist of post-Romantic repertoire, the conductor Iván Fischer accompanies this renowned soloist in major excerpts from *Tristan und Isolde* and *Götterdämmerung*, with the daunting task of teaching the young musicians from the Verbier Festival Orchestra the feel of Wagnerian phrasing.

Providing the listener with a profound philosophical experience, Wagner's operas inject, at a homeopathic dosage, a delicious venom which makes any music lover dependant on this music without giving him a chance to entirely decrypt the mystery of the famous Wagnerian thrill.

Mahler's *Symphonie N°3*,
conducted by the great
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

SUNDAY 7 AUGUST

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Michael TILSON THOMAS Conductor

Nathalie STUTZMANN Contralto

OBERWALLISER VOKALENSEMBLE

«CANTIAMO»

CHOIR FROM L'ECOLE DE CHANT DU HAUT-VALAIS

(Music Director, Hansruedi Kämpfen)

Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)

Symphony No 3



Symphony No 3 monumental in its duration and the number of musicians it requires, is without a doubt the liveliest score Mahler ever composed and that means life in all its entirety: its beauty, its greatness, its violence, but also sometimes its tenderness.

Composed during two consecutive summers spent in the composer's cabin in Steinback on the shores of the Attersee where he loved to rest, the score reveals an optimism and joy which are seldom heard in Mahler's work.

A beautiful dialogue with nature, this masterpiece is composed of six movements, illustrating in turn mountains, flowers, animals, night (based on a text from *Thus spoke Zarathustra*), bells and finally love in one of Mahler's most beautiful adagios.

Michael Tilson Thomas has recorded his favourite symphony twice - following the lead of his idol Leonard Bernstein. This work allows for a full display of symphonic orchestral colours under the baton of one of today's greatest interpreters of Mahler.

To close this 23rd Verbier Festival on a high note, the American maestro invites two regional choirs and the great French contralto Nathalie Stutzmann to perform this magnificent ode to life alongside the young musicians of the Verbier Festival Orchestra

THE FESTIVAL'S MUSIC DIRECTORS

CHARLES DUTOIT



This season, Charles Dutoit conducts «his» Verbier Festival Orchestra on two occasions: in the Festival's opening concert in an ambitious Romantic programme (22 July), and in a much-awaited concert version of Carmen, in which he notably conducts the mezzo-soprano Kate Aldrich (25 July).

It has almost become a pilgrimage for this conductor, now in his seventies: every summer for the past eight years, the maestro has returned to his native country and, in particular, to Verbier, which has been his home since 2009 when he succeeded James Levine as the Verbier Festival Orchestra's (VFO) Music Director.

Accompanying the most prestigious soloists (Martha Argerich, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Yuja Wang, Nelson Freire and the Capuçon brothers), this septuagenarian has inspired the Festival since his arrival at the head of the young phalanx: with an energy particularly appreciated by the members of the orchestra, as well as with artistic demands which have lifted the VFO to the ranks of the greatest international symphonic orchestras.

Happy to share his experience with young musicians, the maestro describes himself as the bearer of a tradition of «humanist» conductors, similar to Bruno Walter or Wilhelm Fürtwangler, for whom the idea of communication and universality of music were essential.

DANIEL HARDING



SATURDAY 23 JULY

2:30 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL JUNIOR ORCHESTRA

Daniel HARDING Conductor

Stephan GENZ Baritone

First concert of the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra and its Music Director, who notably accompanies Stephan Genz in his performance of Mahler's Rückert-Lieder

Daniel Harding demonstrated the extent of his talent, alongside the pianist Menahem Pressler, with an acclaimed debut at the Verbier Festival in 2010 with a Romantic programme. He became definitively part of Verbier Festival history in 2013 when he took up the role of Music Director of the Music Camp (now renamed the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra).

Driven by his desire to pass on his knowledge, thus remaining true to the spirit of the Festival since its beginnings, the maestro has become the ambassador for this ambitious orchestral training programme for young musicians aged 15 to 18, for which his enthusiasm and demanding nature have worked wonders. Under the baton of this charismatic master, the young musicians have the opportunity to work with prestigious soloists and coaches and to present the fruits of their labour to the public during a much-awaited annual concert at the Salle des Combins.

By inviting the baritone Stephen Genz to sing the *Rückert-Lieder* every year, the participants are initiated in to the difficult exercise of vocal accompaniment under the baton of Daniel Harding himself, already acknowledged for his profound knowledge of Mahler's music.

The conductor, who officially takes up his post as Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris in September, holds the third set of workshops of the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra this summer. Curious music enthusiasts are keen to discover the future recruits of the greatest international orchestras.

GÁBOR TAKÁCS-NAGY

SATURDAY 23 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Gábor TAKÁCS-NAGY Conductor

Emöke BARÁTH Soprano

Ann HALLENBERG Mezzo-soprano

Bernard RICHTER Tenor

Stefan GENZ Baritone

Choir «MASTER VOICES»*

(Music Director, Ted Sperling)

*formerly The Collegiate Chorale

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)

Symphony No.1 in E-flat major K. 16

Symphony No. 41 in C major «Jupiter» K. 551

Interval

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Great Mass in C minor K. 427

Also performing on Sunday 31 July at the Salle des Combins with the VFCO and Daniil Trifonov (p. 9).



Appreciated for his attentiveness and the subtlety of his interpretations, this violinist, taught by the great Nathan Milstein, first pursued a prestigious career as a soloist and chamber musician. He is a founding member of the Quatuor Takács. He turned to orchestral conducting in 2002. A successful reconversion as, after founding his own string orchestra, the Camerata Bellerive, the conductor became the Music Director of the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra in 2007. He occupies the position with an enthusiasm and joy that he shares every summer with the musicians as well as the audience.

By working with the same musicians from the most prestigious symphony orchestras each year, the Hungarian maestro has provided this temporary group with all the qualities of a great chamber music orchestra: responsiveness, adaptability and a unique sonority.

The audience has two opportunities to enjoy this orchestra's work at the Salle des Combins: the first performance is a tribute to the conductor's favourite composer, Mozart (23 July), and the second features works from the Russian repertoire, a concert during which the audience can discover for the first time a concerto composed by the young Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov (31 July).

THE «VERBIER GENERATION» AT THE SUMMIT

For years, the Festival has been inviting talented young musicians to Verbier. Some have grown up with the Festival, participating in several consecutive editions. This summer, we are delighted to welcome back artists from this «Verbier Generation» who have made it to the top in their careers: Emöke Baráth, Quatuor Ebène, Andreas Ottensamer, Sylvia Schwartz, Daniil Trifonov and Yuja Wang.

EMÖKE BARÁTH

Finalist of the prestigious 2014 Queen Elizabeth Competition, the young Emöke Baráth first studied the piano and the harp before starting to sing at 18 years of age. Winner of the Verbier Festival Academy Grand Prix, the young artist participated in several master classes, learning from Barbara Bonney, Kiri Te Kanawa and Sylvia Sass, before performing at some of the finest festivals (Aix en Provence, Innsbruck, etc.) and opera houses, such as the Theater an der Wien, the Théâtre des Champs Élysées and the Opéra de Bordeaux. Specialised in 18th Century repertoire, she has recently sung Ormindo in a recording of Handel's Partenope alongside Philippe Jaroussky and Karina Gauvin (Warner). In 2014, she distinguished herself in an acclaimed Re pastore and now returns to Verbier to interpret Mozart. She is the soloist in the Great mass in C minor conducted by another great Mozart enthusiast: Gabor Takacs-Nagy.



Performing on 23 July, at the Salle des Combins (p. 13).

QUATUOR EBÈNE

Founded in 1999 by four young classmates from the Conservatoire de Paris, Quatuor Ebène has, from its beginnings, set itself apart through the originality of its artistic approach: these extraordinary musicians are both open-minded and exacting.

Habituated to the Verbier Festival, the Quatuor Ebène musicians return in 2016 with a new member, the young violist Adrien Boisseau (replacing Mathieu Herzog who left the quartet in 2014). It should be noted that the four musicians are all alumni of the Verbier Festival Academy.

Since then, whilst remaining faithful to their founding values of diversity and excellence, the quartet has built a new sound and artistic identity, developing new collaborations and a broader repertoire.

The quartet shares this newly found freshness with the audience of the Church and other exceptional artists – Martin Fröst, Daniel Hope and Marc-André Hamelin – in three concerts in which they explore the chamber music repertoire from Haydn to Chausson, including Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Debussy.

Performing also on 28 and 31 July.



FRIDAY 29 JULY

8 PM | CHURCH

QUATUOR EBÈNE

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
String quartet in C major, Op. 20 No. 2

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
String quartet in G minor, Op. 10

Interval

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
String quartet No. 12 in E-flat major, Op. 127

ANDREAS OTTENSAMER



WEDNESDAY 27 JULY

8 PM | CHURCH

JERUSALEM QUARTET

Andreas OTTENSAMER Clarinet

Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904)

String quartet No. 12 in F major Quatuor Op. 96 «American»

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

String quartet No. 6 Sz. 114

Interval

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Clarinet quintet in A major K. 581

The career path of the young clarinetist Andreas Ottensamer is a true success story. At 26 years old, the clarinet soloist of the Berliner Philharmoniker has already recorded three albums on Deutsche Grammophon and won several international awards. Born in to a family of musicians, he first studied piano and cello before falling in love with the clarinet relatively late at 14 years old.

After participating in the Verbier Festival Orchestra in 2009, the young musician soon turned to a career as a soloist and chamber musician. His success brings him back to the Swiss Alps this year for two eclectic chamber music concerts in which he explores over four centuries of music. He is first accompanied by the guitarist Miloš and the accordionist Ksenija Sidorova for a very unusual rendezvous with not only Bach or Schubert (23 July), but also Piazzolla and the Beatles. Then, in a more traditional programme, he is accompanied by the Jerusalem Quartet to perform Mozart's famous *Clarinet Quintet* (27 July)

SYLVIA SCHWARTZ



MONDAY 25 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Charles DUTOIT Conductor

Kate ALDRICH (Carmen)

Dmytro POPOV (Don José)

Kyle KETELSEN (Escamillo)

Sylvia SCHWARTZ (Micaëla)

David SHIPLEY (Zuniga)

Choir «MASTER VOICES»*

(Music Director, Ted Sperling)

Choir «CANTIAMO»

FROM THE ECOLE DE CHANT DU HAUT-VALAIS

(Music Director, Hansruedi Kämpfen)

*Formerly The Collegiate Chorale

Other roles to be cast

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Carmen, lyrical drama in four acts.

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy.

Here is an artist whose career will remain linked to the history of the Verbier Festival for a long time! Winner of the 2005 Academy Voice Prize, having attended Thomas Quasthoff's masterclass, the young soprano – Spanish, despite her name –has returned to Verbier almost every summer since 2009. After playing a brilliant *Zerlina* alongside a legendary *Don Giovanni*, Bryn Terfel, the young musician has also distinguished herself in the role of Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, conducted by Paul McCreesh, and of Marzelline in *Fidelio*.

This year, the Festival invites her to interpret her first Michaela under the baton of Charles Dutoit, another habitué of Verbier, in a concert version of *Carmen* at the Salle des Combins (25 July).

With an exceptional vocal temperament and a sparkling personality, this 33 year old singer has become, since her beginnings in Verbier, one of the most popular sopranos on today's international lyric scene. She has sung under the direction of conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Gustavo Dudamel.

Luckily, the artist always finds time in her busy schedule to return to Verbier.

DANIIL TRIFONOV (p. 9), YUJA WANG (p. 7)

RISING STARS

BEHZOD ABDURAIMOV

WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST

11 AM | CHURCH

Behzod ABDURAIMOV Piano

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
«Sicilienne», Largo from the Concerto in D minor BWV 596
After Vivaldi
(Arrangement by Alfred Cortot)
Toccatà and fugue in D minor BWV 565
(Arrangement by Ferruccio Busoni)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Six Moments musicaux D. 780, extracts
- Andantino in A-flat major No. 2
- Allegro moderato in F minor No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Piano sonata in F minor Op. 57 «Appassionata»

Interval

Sergueï Prokofiev (1891-1953)
Piano sonata No. 6 in A major Op. 82

**Also performing on 5 August at the Church
with Mischa Maisky and Lise De La Salle..**



A revelation at the 2009 London Competition at 18 years of age, Behzod Abduraimov returns to the Verbier Festival after an acclaimed performance last year. A rising star, considered a worthy successor to Evgeny Kissin and Denis Matsuev, he has given numerous recitals and orchestral concerts worldwide, as a guest of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony and the NHK Symphony. Signed to the prestigious Decca label, in 2012 he released an album with pieces by Prokofiev, Liszt and Saint-Saëns. The young soloist performs, however, other masterpieces from the piano repertoire at his second appearance at the Verbier Festival. For his solo recital, he performs works by Bach and Schubert, favouring depth of interpretation rather than virtuosity. He also gives a concert at the Church as part of this edition's «Rencontres Inédites» (unprecedented encounters), sharing a unique moment of chamber music with four other young musicians.

BENJAMIN BEILMAN



This young artist's «handsome technique, burnished sound and quiet confidence show why he has come so far so fast», writes The New York Times about the brilliant participant of the 2006 Verbier Festival Academy. At only 20 years old, he won the First Prize and Audience Awards at the 2010 Montreal International Music Competition. Invited by prestigious concert halls such as the Carnegie Hall, the Wigmore Hall and the Auditorium du Louvre, Benjamin Beilman has just signed an exclusive recording contract with Warner Classics. His first album, released in March, is dedicated to Schubert, Janacek, Stravinsky and Kreisler. For his return to Verbier, this time as a soloist, the young musician performs some of the most beautiful pieces from the violin repertoire: first in a recital with piano accompaniment in which he explores a century of music from Beethoven to Ravel, including Schubert, then in a quartet with other leading musicians of the Festival in a Rencontre Inédite (unprecedented encounter) at the Church

SATURDAY 23 JULY

11 AM | CHURCH

Benjamin BEILMAN Violin
Alessio BAX Piano

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Violin sonata No. 6 in A major Op. 30 No. 1

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
Violin sonata No. 2 in G major

Interval

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Fantaisie in C major D. 934

Also performing on 24 July at the Church..

YING FANG



Leading soprano of the Metropolitan Opera, the 28 year old Chinese singer Ying Fang won the Golden Bell Award at the Guangdong singing competition in China in 2009, first prize at the 2013 Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition, and the Lincoln Center Segal Prize in 2015. Her favourite roles include Maria from *West Side Story*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, the Contessa di Folleville in *The Journey to Reims* and Cleopatra in *Julius Caesar*: operas in which her light voice and fine temperament work wonders. «*Ying Fang sings with an exquisite simplicity and directness*», wrote the Opera news journal in 2015. «She is incapable of vulgarity; her dignity is unshakeable, and her powers of persuasion are sovereign.» For her debut at the Verbier Festival, the young singer completes the prestigious cast of a much-awaited Falstaff at the Salle des Combins. Alongside Bryn Terfel, a legendary Falstaff, and under the baton of Jesus Lopez Cobos, a Verdi specialist, she interprets the role of the delicate Nannetta.

FRIDAY 29 JULY

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

Jesús LÓPEZ-COBOS Conductor
Bryn TERFEL (Falstaff)
Luca SALSI (Ford)
Erika GRIMALDI (Alice Ford)
Ying FANG (Nannetta)
Roxana CONSTANTINESCU (Meg Page)
Ekaterina SEMENCHUK (Quickly)
Javier CAMARENA (Fenton)
David SHIPLEY (Pistola)
OBERWALLISER VOKALENSEMBLE
 (Music Director, Hansruedi Kämpfen)
Claudio DESDERI Stage Director

Other roles still to be cast

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)
Falstaff, *Commedia lirica* in three acts

Also perform on 1st August at the Church.

LUKAS GENIUŠAS

FRIDAY 5 AUGUST

2:30 PM | CHURCH

Lukas GENIUŠAS Piano

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Faschingschwank aus Wien op.26

Frédéric Chopin (1810 – 1849)
Mazurkas (selection)

Sergueï Prokofiev (1891-1953)
Piano sonata No. 2 in D minor Op. 14

**Also performing on 4 August at the Church
with Joshua Bell and Pamela Frank.**



Born in Moscow in 1990, the Russian and Lithuanian artist grew up in a family of musicians. Lukas Geniušas started piano studies at the age of 5 at the Frederic Chopin Music School in Moscow, where his grandmother, Vera Gornostaeva, a pianist and distinguished professor, worked. Silver medallist at the prestigious 2010 Chopin International Piano Competition, he has just won 2nd place at the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. A great enthusiast of chamber music, Lukas Geniušas is an extremely eclectic artist who offers, besides a solo recital of his favourite composers, Schumann, Chopin and Prokofiev, a chamber music programme with the renowned Joshua Bell, Pamela Frank and Tabea Zimmermann for a musical interlude of Mozart and Russian music.

GEORGE LI



The young American prodigy, George Li, was born in Boston in 1995. Silver medallist at the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition and winner of the prestigious 14th International Grand Prix Animato International Competition in 2014 in Paris, he is distinguished by an astounding technique, a great sound quality and an exceptional musicality. Besides having performed recitals worldwide, the young soloist has played with orchestras, such as the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra and the Boston Youth Orchestra. In parallel, George Li is currently enrolled in the dual degree program at Harvard University and the New England Music Conservatoire. Former participant of the Verbier Festival Academy, the Festival welcomes this promising artist for a concert of French music - Saint-Saëns virtuosic Concerto No. 2 - chaperoned by conductor Emmanuel Krivine.

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

VERBIER FESTIVAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Emmanuel KRIVINE Conductor

Joshua BELL Violin

George LI Piano

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Violin concerto No. 3

in B minor Op. 61

Piano concerto No. 2

in G minor Op. 22

Interval

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Symphony No. 1 in C major

DANIEL LOZAKOVITJ

At only 15 years of age, the violinist Daniel Lozakovitj possesses both a precocious talent and maturity. Born in Stockholm, he began playing the violin in 2007 and made his debut in a concerto in 2010 with the «Moscow Virtuosi» Chamber Orchestra and Vladimir Spivakov. The young Swedish musician has already participated in several international festivals and has performed as a soloist throughout Europe with orchestras, such as the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tchaikovsky Symphonic Orchestra, the Moscow Symphony Orchestra and the Stockholm Royal Court. Great violinists, such as Maxim Vengerov, Ivry Gitlis and Daniel Hope, have acknowledged his talent. Having participated in the 2014 Verbier Festival Academy programme and in the chamber music concert last year, he gives his own recital in Verbier this year, accompanied by the pianist Frank Dupree. The programme features major pieces from the repertoire such as Bach's Violin Partita No. 2 and Mozart's Sonata K. 301. When not practising and performing, Daniel enjoys playing football and chess.



WEDNESDAY 27 JULY

11 AM | CHURCH

Daniel LOZAKOVITJ Violin

Frank DUPREE Piano

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Violin partita No. 2 in D minor BWV 1004

Interval

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Violin sonata in G major K. 301

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Violin sonata No. 3 in D minor Op. 108

Also performing on Monday 1 August at the Church with Daniel Hope and Ying Fang and the participants of the Verbier Festival Academy.

EVENINGS FULL OF RHYTHM

A passionate recital by **MILOŠ**,
ANDREAS OTTENSAMER
and **KSENIJA SIDOROVA**

SATURDAY 23 JULY

8 PM | CHURCH

Miloš Guitar

Andreas OTTENSAMER Clarinet

Ksenija SIDOROVA Accordion

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

Solo pieces for the guitar

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Sonata Arpeggione

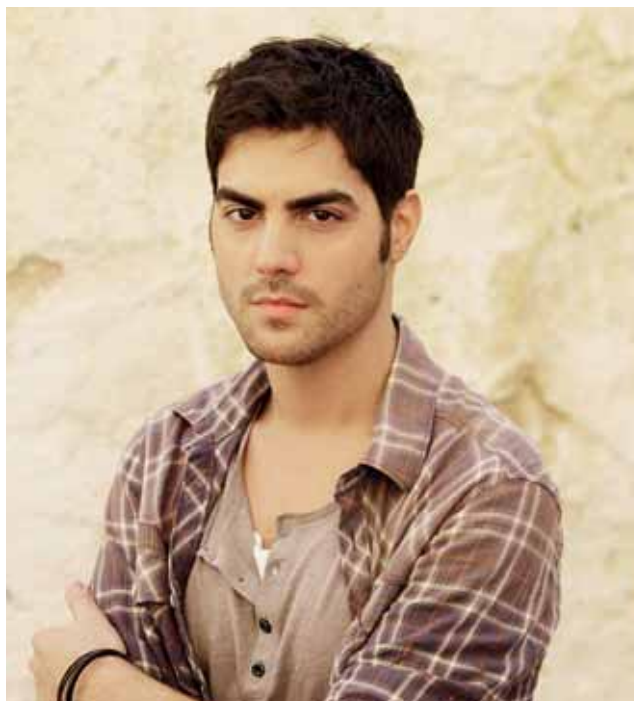
Antonio Soler (1729-1783)

Fandango

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Guastavino

Gardel



What do Bach and the Beatles have in common? Schubert and Piazzolla? Certainly vague similarities from a musicological point of view, but above all there is the desire of three young talented musicians to share some eclectic and convivial moments with the Verbier Festival audience thanks to these legendary composers.

Already used to travelling the world together and sharing a passion for their instruments, Miloš et Ksenija Sidorova are joined on stage by Andreas Ottensamer, principal clarinetist of the Berliner Philharmoniker at only 26 years of age.

For her debut in Verbier, this rising star of the accordion can count on the complicity and benevolence of her two partners, both habitués of the Festival, having already shone by virtue of their gifted maturity, virtuosity and solid musicality.

Performing transcriptions of scores from the 18th and 20th centuries, these three musicians offer festival goers an atypical moment of chamber music.

A joyful yet moving performance of musical discoveries by an explosive (and charming!) trio.

WORLD MUSIC

DIANNE REEVES



TUESDAY 2 AUGUST

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

Dianne REEVES Voice

She is certainly one of the most important jazz singers of our time. A worthy heir to Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan, Dianne Reeves has won her 5th Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album in 2015 with *Beautiful Life*. The latter demonstrates her mastery in crossing musical borders between R&B, Latin music, pop and jazz. In her most recent songs, she celebrates the beauty of life and the creative process, revisiting standards, such as Bob Marley's *Waiting in Vain*, Fleetwood Mac's *Dreams*, Marvin Gaye's *I Want You* and Ani DiFranco's *32 Flavours*. Her other songs cover a broad spectrum from jazz to soul, with two new tunes, *Cold* and *Satiated*, an explosion of emotions. On 22 May, the singer received an honorary doctorate for her amazing virtuosity, her great improvisational skills and her unique style bridging jazz and R&B. She received this award at the Lincoln Centre, alongside Suzanne Farrell, Nicholas Hytner, Murray Perahia, and Peter Sellars.

On the Combins stage, she is accompanied by **Peter Martin** on piano, **Romero Lumbao** on guitar, **Reginald Veal** on double bass and **Terreon Gully** on drums.

LES GIPSY KINGS



FRIDAY 5 AUGUST

7 PM | SALLE DES COMBINS

GIPSY KINGS

With **Nicolas REYES** and **Tonino BALIARDO**

Djobi Djoba, Bamboleo, Volare... Who hasn't danced to a Gipsy Kings hit? In the collective imagination, the band, led by Nicolas Reyes and Tonino Baliardo, is a symbol of Andalusian sun with a background of wild guitars. Almost 25 years have passed since they captured our imagination with their sensational first album *Los Reyes*, earning Gold and Platinum records worldwide and introducing millions of music enthusiasts to a unique and irresistible blend of traditional flamenco, Western pop and Latin rhythms. Since then, the band has toured almost non-stop in the most remote places on earth and has sold almost twenty million records without changing the original cast of virtuosic musicians. The group returns today with *Savor Flamenco* (2013), their 9th studio album and first release in six years. Winners of a Grammy Award in 2014, the Gipsy Kings travel for the first time to Verbier to perform their greatest hits. There is no doubt that their enthusiasm and energy will raise the temperature!

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS 23rd EDITION

EVENING DEDICATED TO MOZART

23 July



Divine Wolfgang, who at the age of 8 and with astonishing maturity composed his first *symphony*. Sublime Amadeus, who delivered with his famous *Symphony No. 41* «Jupiter» his symphonic swansong. And when the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra is conducted by **Gábor Takács-Nagy**, one can be assured that Mozart's genius will shine in all its splendour

EVENING OF SPANISH COMPOSERS

26 July



We head south for this concert conducted by **Marc Minkowski**. The French conductor has prepared a programme with a Spanish flavour, featuring two masterpieces from the Iberian repertoire: Rodrigo's *Concerto d'Aranjuez* (performed by the celebrated guitarist **Miloš**) and *Falla's* incandescent flamenco ballet, *El amor brujo*. Que viva España!

GRIGORY SOKOLOV

26 July



Grigory Sokolov has been a regular visitor to the Festival for several years. In his recital, he performs Schumann's deeply moving *Fantasy* alongside another Romantic piece, Chopin's sweeping *Sonata No. 2*. And if we do not yet know how many encores will follow his performance (Sokolov's generosity is legendary), one thing is certain: the Russian titan will offer an unforgettable evening. This will without doubt be one of the most popular recitals of the 2016 Festival.

KRISTÓF BARÁTI

26 July



It is, of course, a privilege to listen to Bach's *Sonatas* and *Partitas*. To listen to them in one day (although you can choose just one concert!) is a major event, especially when performed by the Hungarian, **Kristóf Baráti**, one of the most illustrious musicians of his generation. He will transport us to the very heart of the music with purity and poignancy.

PAAVO JÄRVI

1 August



Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris, Bremen's Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, and Tokyo's NHK Symphony Orchestra, **Paavo Järvi** is one of the busiest conductors in the world. For his grand return to Verbier, the conductor presents a fascinating programme where his sensitive and sharp direction will be inspiring in both the finesse of Debussy and in Prokofiev's grandiose *Symphony No. 5*.

HOMMAGE TO YEHUDI MENUHIN

1 August



At 11 years old, the violinist **Daniel Hope** was invited by Yehudi Menuhin to perform on stage the Duos by Bartók. Nearly 60 unforgettable concerts followed until the master's farewell concert in 1999. To bring his legendary mentor back to life, the British violinist offers a delightful concert alongside his young «protégé», **Daniel Lozakovitj**, and a number of promising musicians brought together for the occasion. A beautiful programme and a perfect example of the values of sharing and communication so important to the Verbier Festival.

EMMANUEL KRIVINE

6 August



A loyal visitor, American violinist **Joshua Bell** performs with **Emmanuel Krivine** in a programme which will be further enhanced by the presence of a silver medallist at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, the pianist of Chinese origin, **George Li**, an alumni of the Verbier Festival Academy with a shining future.

SUCCESS STORIES

ACADEMY

The Verbier Festival Academy has been an invaluable stepping stone in the careers of some of today's most sought-after soloists. Many exceptional musicians have passed through Verbier and still have a strong connection to the Academy and the Verbier Festival.

Piano

Inon Barnatan
 Bertrand Chamayou
 Alexandra Dariescu
 Frank Dupree
 Kirill Gerstein
 Lilit Grigoryan
 David Kadouch
 Denis Kozhukhin
 Eduard Kunz
 Louis Schwizgebel
 Yevgeny Sudbin
 Conrad Tao

Violin

Benjamin Beilman
 Renaud Capuçon
 Fanny Clamagirand
 Alexandra Conunova
 Vilde Frang
 David Garrett
 Vadim Gluzman
 Thomas Gould
 Chad Hoopes
 Yossif Ivanov
 Patricia Kopatchinskaja
 Jack Liebeck
 Albrecht Menzel
 Alina Pogostkina
 Alexandra Soumm

Viola

Barbara Buntrock
 Andrea Burger
 David Aaron Carpenter
 Veit Hertenstein

Sergey Malov
 Dimitri Murrath
 Lawrence Power
 Ziyu Shen
 Peijun Xu

Cello

Han Na Chang
 Natalie Clein
 Lionel Cottet
 Leonard Elschenbroich
 Isang Enders
 Pablo Ferrandez
 Sol Gabetta
 Pavel Gomziakov
 Maximilian Hornung
 Anastasia Kobekina
 Jakob Koranyi
 Christian-Pierre La Marca
 Edgar Moreau
 Christian Poltera
 Kian Soltani
 Camille Thomas
 Ella van Poucke

Voice / Opera

Emöke Barath
 Omo Bello
 Luciano Botelho
 Measha Brueggengosman
 Ginger Costa-Jackson
 Evelina Dobračeva
 Luis Gomes
 Anthony Gregory
 David Hansen
 Joshua Hopkins
 Valdis Jansons

Johannes Kammler
 Julia Lezhneva
 Jonathan McGovern
 Netta Or
 Elena Pankratova
 Sylvia Schwartz
 David Shipley
 Olena Tokar
 Kitty Whately
 Valda Wilson

Chamber music

Badke String Quartet
 Calidore String Quartet
 Danish String Quartet
 Eben Trio
 Quatuor Ebène
 Quatuor Modigliani
 Navarra String Quartet
 Signum Saxophone Quartet
 Trio Dali
 Quatuor Van Kuijk

Conductor

Antoine Glatard
 Ilyich Rivas
 Daniele Rustioni

ORCHESTRAS

Since the orchestras were founded, more than 900 musicians aged between 17 and 29, coming from 65 different countries, have taken part and performed with the most talented conductors and soloists in the world.

Today the Verbier Festival Orchestra is widely recognised as one of the best youth orchestras in the world. After completing their training with the VFO a number of musicians have been engaged by the world's leading orchestras.

Violin

STRINGS

Daniel Andai – VFO '05-'06, VFCO '07-'13 – Concertmaster – Miami Symphony, Dean – New World School of Arts, Artistic Director – Killington Festival

Sun Kyung Ban – VFO '13 – First violin principal – Korean Broadcasting Orchestra

Rimma Bergeron-Langlois – VFO '00-'05, VFCO '06 & '14, Concertmaster – Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Florida/USA

Liana Berube – VFO '06-'08 – Associate Concertmaster – San Jose Chamber Orchestra, California/USA

Mariya Borozina – VFO '02-'05; VFCO '06-'08 – San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Jerry Chiu – VFO '11, '12 – Colorado Symphony

Sonia Coppey – VFO '00-'04, VFCO '05-'10 – Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Norway

Teodora Dimitrova – VFO '08-'10 – Berner Symphonieorchester

Filip Fenrych – VFO '06-'08, VFCO '09-'14, Principal Second violin – Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Lulu Fuller – VFO '03-'05; VFCO '05-'10 – Philharmonia Orchestra, London

Julian Gil Rodriguez – VFO '12-'14 – London Symphony Orchestra

Roberto González Monjas – VFO '11-'13', VFCO '14' – Concertmaster – Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Roma/Italy

Laura Ha – VFO '11-'13, VFCO '14-'15 – Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Portland/USA

Will Haapaniemi – VFO '08-'09 – Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Emma Hancock McGrath – VFO '07 – Associate Concertmaster – Seattle Symphony

Sheryl Hwangbo – VFO '10, '11 – Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Lelia Iancovici – VFO '04-'05, VFCO '06-'14 – Valencia Orchestra, Spain

Christoph Koncz – VFO '04, '05; VFCO '06-'11 – Principal Second – Wiener Philharmoniker

Justine Lamb-Budge – VFO '12-'14 – Associate Concertmaster – Kansas City Symphony Orchestra

Matous Michal – VFO '14 – Chicago Symphony

Simon Michal – VFO '15 – Chicago Symphony

Mae Lin – VFO '07 – Seattle Symphony

Kuan-cheng Lu – VFO '01 – New York Philharmonic

Asaf Maoz – VFO '02-'04, VFCO '08-'14 – Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

Geneviève Martineau – VFO '06-'08, VFCO '09-'13 – Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra

Etien Meneri – VFO '00-'04, VFCO '07-'11 – Israel Camerata Jerusalem

Ju Yeong Moon – VFO '11 – First Principal – Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra

Aya Muraki – VFO '00-'04, VFCO '05-'14 – Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Norway

Sara Pastine – VFO '11-'13 – RAI Symphony Orchestra, Turin/Italy

Olga Polonsky – VFO '04, '05; VFCO '06-'11 – Deutsches Symphonieorchester Berlin

Polina Kozhevnikova – Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

Alexandros Sakarellos – VFO '06-'08, VFCO '09-'14 – Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Sayaka Takeuchi – VFO '02-'06, VFCO '05-'14, – Tonhalle Orchester Zürich

Kirill Terentiev – VFO '02, '03 – Concertmaster – Mariinsky Theatre

Marc Daniel van Biemen – VFO '10, '11 – Royal Concertgebouw

Asuka Yano – VFO '06-'09; VFCO '08 – San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Hyejin Yune – VFO '12 – Minnesota Orchestra

Lena Zeliszewska – VFO '07-'09 – First Assistant – City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Viola

Lotem Beider – Israel Philharmonic Orchestra
 Daniela Ivanova- VFO '01, '04 – Wiener Philharmoniker
 Anton Jivaev- VFO '00; VFCA '05-'11 – Gewandhausorchester Leipzig
 Rebekah Newman- VFO '09, '10 – Minnesota Orchestra
 Florentza Nicola- VFO '02-'03, VFCA '07 – Montpellier National Orchestra
 Janka Szomor-Mekis- VFO '08-'10, VFCA '11-'14 – Zürcher Kammer Orchester

Cello

Anne-Sophie Basset- VFO '07, '08; VFCA '09 – WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln
 Anna Burden- VFO '10 – Associate Principal – Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal
 Rosanna Butterfield – VFO '13-15 – Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Portland/USA
 Lionel Cottet – VFO '12 VFCA '13-'14 Associate Principal – Bayerische Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester
 Bruno Delepelaire- VFO '10-'12, Principal cello – Berliner Philharmoniker
 Dorothea Figueroa- VFO '00, '01 – Associate Principal – Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
 Stephan Koncz- VFO '04, '05; VFCA '06-'09 – Berliner Philharmoniker
 Nerina Elena Mancini- VFO '02-'03, VFCA '10-13 – Konzerthaus Orchester Berlin

Double bass

Kristen Bruya- VFO '04, '05 – Assistant Principal – Toronto Symphony
 Jonathan Colbert- VFO '05-'08, VFCA '10-14 – The Royal Danish Orchestra
 Michael Fuller- VFO '01, '05; VFCA '06, '08 – Philharmonia Orchestra, London
 Travis Gore- VFO '05, '06 – Seattle Symphony
 Alex Hanna- VFO '06-'08 – Principal – Chicago Symphony
 Sarah Hogan- VFO '03, '05 – St. Louis Symphony
 Brendan Kane- VFO '06-'11, VFCA '12-'14 – Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
 Joseph Kaufman- VFO '04 – Seattle Symphony
 Dan Krekeler- VFO '01, '04 – Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
 Joan Perarnau Garriga- VFO '08, VFCA '09-'13, Associate Principal – New Zealand Symphony Orchestra
 Scott Pingel- VFO '00 – Principal – San Francisco Symphony
 Noah Reitman – VFO '11-13 – Assistant Principal- Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
 Nicholas Schwartz- VFO '10-'12, VFCA '13-'14 – Royal Concertgebouw
 Ivy Wong – VFO '13-15 – Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

Flute

WOODWINDS

Rute Fernandes – VFO '13-15 – Zürich Opera Orchestra
 Alistair Howlett- VFO 2010-2012, Principal – Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra
 Sangah Nah- VFO '08-'10; VFCA '11 – Principal – Orchestre de Colonne, Paris/France

Oboe

Jennifer Christen- VFO '10, '11 – Principal – Indianapolis Symphony
 Rémi Grouiller – VFO '14 – Orchestre de Paris
 Nathan Hughues- VFO '00 – Principal – Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
 Emmanuel Laille- VFO '07-'08, VFCA '08-'13, Principal – Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra
 Kevin Pearl – VFO '13-15 – Principal – Milwaukee Symphony, Wisconsin/USA
 Jessica Pearlman- VFO '08-'09, Principal – Pacific Symphony, California/USA

Clarinet

Camillo Battistello- VFO '11 – Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
 Pedro Lopez – VFO '09-12 – Danish National Symphony Orchestra
 Andreas Ottensammer- VFO '09 – Principal – Berliner Philharmoniker
 Giovanni Punzi – VFO '13-15 – Principal – Copenhagen Philharmonic

Dmitry Rasul – Kareyev– VFO '06; VFCO '08 – Principal – Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
 Balasz Rummy – VFO '08-10 – Principal – Hungarian State Opera House

Bassoon

Axel Benoit- VFO '11-'13 – Principal – Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne
 Sam Blair– VFO '09-'11 – Kennedy Center for the Arts/Washington National Opera Orchestra
 Pierre Gomes– VFO '09-'11, VFCO '12-'14 – Solo bassoon – Orchestre National de Lorraine
 Billy Short– VFO '10-'12 – Principal – Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Horn

BRASS

Joe Assi– VFO '08-'10 – Dallas Symphony Orchestra
 Jimmy Charitas– VFO '11-'12, Principal Horn – Orchestre de l'Opéra de Lyon
 Geneviève Clifford– VFO '07-'09, VFCO '08-'11 – Essener Philharmoniker, Germany
 James Ferree– VFO '10-'12, VFCO 2013-'14 – Principal Horn – Richmond Symphony, Virginia/USA
 Austin Hansen – VFO '13-14 – Colorado Symphony
 Lionel Pointet – VFO '13-15 – Zürich Opera Orchestra
 Oliver Redfearn– VFO '08, VFCO '09-'11 – Hofer Symphoniker, Bavaria/Germany
 David Sullivan– VFO '06-'08, VFCO '09-'14 – Associate Principal – Kansas City Symphony
 Jonathan Wegloop – VFO '13-15 – Philharmoniker Hamburg

Trumpet

Nathaniel Hepler– VFO '09-'11, VFCO '12-'13 – Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
 Caleb Hudson– VFO '10, '11 – Canadian Brass Quintet

Trombone

Matteo de Luca– VFO '07-'09 – Principal – Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
 Inaki Ducun– VFO '10, '11 – Principal – Komische Oper Berlin
 Vanessa Fralick– VFO '10 – Assistant – St. Louis Symphony, Missouri/USA
 Shachar Israel– VFO '08, '09 – First Assistant – Cleveland Orchestra
 Jonathan Reith– VFO '10-'12 – VFO '13-'14 – Trombone solo – Orchestre de Paris
 David Rey– VFO '02-'08 – Principal – Brussels Philharmonic

Tuba

John Whitener– VFO '05-'09 – Principal – Royal Scottish National Orchestra

PERCUSSIONS

Sabela Caridad Garcia – VFO '11-13 – Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia, Spain
 Michael Israelievitch– VFO '04, '07 – Principal timpani and percussion – Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota/
 USA
 Jacob Nissly– VFO '08, '09 – Principal – San Francisco Symphony
 Michael Roberts – VFO '10 – '13 – Percussion – Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Portland/USA
 Ian Sullivan– VFO '12 – '15 – Principal timpani – New York City Ballet
 Samuli Viitanen– VFO '08-'09 – Timpani – Finnish National Opera

LEARNING PROGRAMMES: TUITION AND DISCOVERY

VERBIER FESTIVAL ACADEMY

DISCOVER, NURTURE AND COACH TOMORROW'S SOLOISTS

Recognised today as a model of excellence in its field, the Verbier Festival Academy opens its doors for three weeks of intensive coaching to violinists, violists, cellists, pianists and singers, from all over the world, who have been subject to a rigorous selection process. Under the leadership of prestigious artists who have become their teachers for this occasion, the Academy participants take part in a unique adventure.

They are taught at daily **masterclasses** and workshops and exchange ideas and advice with these experts. The Academy provides the young artists with comprehensive training, focusing on both musical aspects and career development.

Since 2014, the «Reaching Out» initiative allows musicians not only to think about how they can take their music outside concert halls, but also how they can work actively in their own communities. By offering innovative working tools that are adapted to the demands of today's music world, as well as an invaluable network of contacts, the Verbier Festival Academy acts as a major stepping stone for the careers of the young generation of musicians. It allows them to excel themselves and to move out of their comfort zone. They grow as musicians but also as people.



The Verbier Festival Academy will take place from 18 July to 7 August 2016

Faculty of the Verbier Festival Academy 2016:

Opera / Voice :	Claudio Desderi, Dan Ettinger, Elena Pankratova
Chamber Music :	András Schiff, Gábor Takács-Nagy
Piano :	Klaus Hellwig, Ferenc Rados, András Schiff
Cello :	Laurence Lesser, Torleif Thedéen
Viola :	Lawrence Power, Tabea Zimmermann
Violin:	Zakhar Bron, Pamela Frank

Public masterclasses

Public masterclasses take place every day from 9.30am to 2pm in different venues around Verbier. They offer music lovers the chance to follow the musicians' development closely and provide insight in to the process of coaching. Audiences can follow the progress of Academy members during daily chamber concerts «The Verbier Festival Academy presents...» at the Verbier Cinema at 4.30pm.

Public concerts

The 2016 Verbier Festival Academy ends with three public concerts at the Church in Verbier. On 6 August at 11 am, the Academy instrumentalists take to the stage with an eclectic programme of chamber music and, on 7 August at 2.30pm, the young Academy singers perform Mozart's *Don Giovanni* - a chance to appreciate not only their vocal virtuosity but also their acting skills.

THE VERBIER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRAS

DEVELOP THE TALENT OF THE NEW GENERATION

Our orchestras have set a world standard in orchestral training. Every summer, they bring together musicians from around the world and enable them to share their passion: music. The participants go through one of the most rigorous selection processes in the world.



The Verbier Festival Orchestra, symphony orchestra (VFO)

The Verbier Festival represents a unique experience for the hundred or so young musicians, aged between **18 and 28**, who every year make up the Verbier Festival Orchestra.

A new intake represents about one third of the Verbier Festival Orchestra every year. The audition process is highly selective. Around 1100 participants are auditioned in different cities (New York, Paris, Cologne, Zürich, Geneva, Helsinki, Saint-Petersburg) and only thirty are chosen. The lucky few take up orchestral residence in Verbier at the beginning of July. There, they follow an intensive tuition programme from the coaches of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in New York. At the end of this intense three-week coaching period, the Verbier Festival Orchestra performs six concerts under the baton of its Music Director **Charles Dutoit** (22 and 25 July) as well as other guest conductors: **Jésus López Cobos** (29 July) **Paavo Järvi** (1 August), **Iván Fischer** (4 August) and **Michael Tilson Thomas** (7 August).



The Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, chamber orchestra (VFCO)

For its part, the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, composed of alumni of the Verbier Festival Orchestra, all members of major international orchestras, performs chamber music repertoire. It gives six concerts during this 23rd Festival.

The two concerts conducted by **Gábor Takács-Nagy** (23 July and 31 July at 7pm) provide an opportunity for audiences to savour the harmony, created through friendship and collaboration, which links the VFCO with its Music Director. The musicians also have the pleasure of playing under the direction of **Marc Minkowski** (26 July), **András Schiff** (28 July), **Michael Tilson Thomas** (3 August), founder of the New World Symphony in Miami, and **Emmanuel Krivine** (6 August).



In Verbier, musicians from both orchestras develop skills and enjoy experiences they will take away with them and use throughout their careers. The majority of them take up important positions in the greatest international symphony orchestras.



«Fenêtre sur Orchestre»

Every evening at 11pm, musicians from the VFO and the VFCO take over the Church for a series of nocturnal concerts entitled «Fenêtre sur Orchestre» («Window on the Orchestra»). These free chamber music concerts, initiated by the musicians themselves, allow them to get together in small groups and perform a programme they have chosen: a magical moment for the audience and an opportunity to discover individual talents and passions.

Open rehearsals

For an immersion in to the life and work of an orchestra, curious music enthusiasts can attend some Verbier Festival Orchestra rehearsals that are open to the public. As part of the Verbier Festival Discovery programmes, six «**seats in the orchestra**» are available to members of the public during rehearsals at the Salle de la Comba.

VERBIER FESTIVAL JUNIOR ORCHESTRA

A UNIQUE PROGRAMME FOR ORCHESTRAL TRAINING

Launched in 2013, the Verbier Festival Music Camp has been renamed this year the **Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra**. Aimed at young, ambitious and passionate musicians, this programme brings together handpicked musicians and allows them to discover orchestral life.

For three weeks, the participants rehearse and perform with international instrumentalists and are coached by leading musicians. The training programme takes different forms: orchestral rehearsals, coaching sessions, private lessons and even alternative classes such as yoga and meditation to learn techniques for coping with stress and controlling one's breathing.

For young instrumentalists aged 15 to 18 (instead of 15 to 17), this orchestral programme alternates music training (75%) with cultural and sporting activities (25%). This summer, alumni of the Verbier Festival Orchestra – members of major international orchestras –, as well as conductors Daniel Harding (the programme's Music Director) on 23 July and Dima Slobodeniouk on 30 July 2016, are in charge of the teaching.

With worldwide renown for its excellent training programmes, the Verbier Festival invites the greatest musicians to come and share their passion. In addition to orchestral training, the young musicians are able to attend concerts and participate in numerous cultural and sporting activities in a beautiful setting.

With this new programme for developing young talents, the Verbier Festival reaffirms its commitment to the young generation, providing ever younger musicians with the essential tools for a successful career in music.

The Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra programme takes place from 10 to 31 July 2016.



The Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra performs at the Salle des Combins:

- > 23 July, 2.30 PM, at The Salle des Combins
With Daniel Harding
- > 30 July, 2.30 PM, at The Salle des Combins
With Dima Slobodeniouk

DISCOVERY and FEST'OFF CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH A DIFFERENCE

As early as 1994, the Festival organised concert-related activities, masterclasses and rehearsals open to the public, which aimed to offer a different insight in to the world of classical music: public discussions about the music profession and the political and societal challenges facing the cultural industry.

These free activities, now united in the Verbier Festival Discovery and Fest'Off programmes, continue to bring the resort to life during the summer.



The Verbier Festival Discovery

offers adults themed conferences and an introduction to concerts. The youngest visitors can participate in workshops, giving an introduction to music using a recreational and interdisciplinary approach that combines music, painting, dance and circus.



Verbier Fest'Off

More information to follow!

MARTIN T:SON ENGSTROEM

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Martin T:son Engstroem was born in 1953 in Stockholm. He grew up there and obtained his degree in Music History and Russian at Stockholm University. Moving to Paris in 1975, he became a partner in the artistic agency Opéra et Concert. He also worked closely with Herbert von Karajan for many years. He moved to Switzerland in 1986. During this period, he was a consultant for EMI France, for the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele and the Opéra national de Paris.

In 1991, he set up what would become the Verbier Festival and Academy with its first edition in 1994. He is still its Executive Director. In 2000 and 2005, he set up respectively the Verbier Festival Orchestra and the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra. In 2013, a new education project was launched under his initiative, the Verbier Festival Music Camp (today renamed the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra).

From 1999 to 2003, he was Vice-President of Deutsche Grammophon for the sector «Artists and Repertoire». Then from 2003 to 2005, he was appointed Senior Executive Producer & Artist Development. During this period, he was responsible for the recordings of Anne-Sophie Mutter, Pierre Boulez, Claudio Abbado and Maurizio Pollini and also signed new artists such as Anna Netrebko, Lang Lang, Yundi Li, Hélène Grimaud, Ilya Gringolts, Hilary Hahn and Esa-Pekka Salonen.



Martin T:son Engstroem has served on the juries of numerous competitions, such as the 50th Paganini Competition in Genoa (2005), Thomas Quasthoff's first Das Lied Competition (2009), the Clara Haskil Competition and the Tchaikovsky Competition. He is also a member of several Foundation Boards, including the Béjart Ballet, Lausanne and the Tibor Varga Academy, Sion. He is a member of the Governing Board of the Glion Institut de Hautes Etudes. In April 2015, he received the Dmitri Shostakovich Prize at a ceremony held at the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, in Moscow. Awarded by the Yuri Bashmet Foundation, it is considered to be one of the most prestigious prizes in the field of Russian art. Martin T:son Engstroem is the first laureate of the Dmitri Shostakovich Prize who is not a musician.

The Foundation Board Members

- Alain Nicod, President
- Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, Vice-President
- Patrick Aebischer
- Boris Collardi
- Catherine de Marignac, President of the Friends of the Verbier Festival
- Patrick de Preux
- Martin T:son Engstroem, Founder and Executive Director of the Verbier Festival
- Patrice Feron
- Jean-Albert Ferrez
- Eloi Rossier, President of the Commune of Bagnes/VS
- Julien Schoenlaub
- Olivier Verrey

THE VERBIER EXPERIENCE

Spending a summer in Verbier/Val de Bagnes - La Tzoumaz is a veritable voyage of discovery. It's about allowing yourself to be surprised by the thrills of the many mountain bike and hiking trails, by the unceasingly renewed wonderment at a spectacular natural environment. It's about savouring time with the family, whether out in the fresh air or in a museum. And finally, it's about delighting in classical music and natural produce in a resort whose key focus is to offer you excellence at every level.

The weather is clear, the Combins and Mont-Blanc ranges are awakening. A summer day begins in Verbier, encouraging visitors to enjoy this idyllic natural environment. The ultimate mountain biking destination, the region is an ideal playground with its 826 kilometres of kilometres of trails. It offers a wealth of unadulterated pleasure, pervaded by the watchwords of quality and diversity. The toughest can get out there to try their hand at a cross-country discovery excursion or two through the area's villages and picturesque mayens (traditional wooden houses).

The famous Tour du Mont-Fort, which offers a panoramic view the entire length of the itinerary, will be sure to test cyclists' limits. For riders with a preference for downhill, the Verbier-La Tzoumaz region is a veritable attraction park. Twelve kilometres of downhill, with blue, red and black runs and the highlight in the shape of the new Rôdze trail with its 65 jumps. Nor have Enduro fans been forgotten with 206 kilometres of incredible runs divided into 18 itineraries and spread across the region's valleys. In any event, adrenalin and emotion are part and parcel of our mountain bike escapades.

Hikers will also find whatever they are looking for in this dream landscape. Spread across Switzerland's second largest municipality, some 950 kilometres of lush hiking trails are available to hikers. From excursions accessible to all in the mountains above the resort, where the marmots are soaking up the sun, to treks lasting several days at the end of the Val de Bagnes in search of mountain huts, the possibilities between Verbier and la Tzoumaz are limitless.

Families can explore the region's many bisses (ancient waterways), the remnants of the agriculture of yesteryear. Célestin le Bouquetin, the bold ibex and her educational book takes children to the Musée de Bagnes (Bagnes Museum) and the Maisons du Patrimoine (Heritage Houses). The educational paths or Kids Days, holiday day camps, make Verbier-La Tzoumaz a family destination in which play and discovery are the key words.

And while the Verbier - La Tzoumaz region can be explored with a pair of strong calves, it is also just as much of a voyage of discovery for those with a refined palate. Bagnes Municipality is the capital of raclette, and consists of five mountain dairies in which cheeses are made during summer. At the end of September, an event lasting a day is devoted to this local AOC product, each year bringing together more than 15,000 visitors. And for the more curious amongst us, activities introducing mountain dairy cheese-making are regularly held throughout summer. This authentic, semi-hard cheese is a wonderful accompaniment to thin slices of traditional rye bread baked in collective oven, and enhanced with a touch of honey from the valley.

Throughout the summer season, the resort buzzes with big events. For music lovers, every summer, the Verbier Festival brings together well-known classical musicians along with the up-and-coming generation between mid-July and the beginning of August. The international equestrian competition, the Verbier Saint-Bernard trail and the Grand Raid cycle race are all events which make their mark on this lively, vibrant destination.



NEW MAIN SPONSOR

This year, the Verbier Festival is delighted to welcome the Neva Foundation as a main sponsor, alongside the Julius Baer Bank and Nespresso. A partner of the Festival for five years, the organisation looks forward to contributing even more to the event's success.

The Neva Foundation was created in 2008 in Geneva by the Timchenko family with the aim of promoting the diversity of Russian culture - classical or contemporary - among a francophone audience. By developing or supporting projects fostering excellence, the Neva Foundation reinforces ties and encourages intercultural exchange. The Foundation's projects are divided into three main areas: culture, sports and education.

Through partnerships with renowned cultural institutions, the best of Russian creativity and artistry is regularly presented in prestigious venues. In the same quest for excellence, the Foundation showcases Russian literary, cultural and architectural heritage through ambitious publication projects.

Helping young people is also a priority for the Neva Foundation. It supports young, talented individuals in the arts and sports and encourages the practice of these disciplines by young people.

A faithful partner of the Verbier Festival for several years, the Neva Foundation is delighted to take part in the 2016 edition as one of the event's main sponsors. By supporting this prestigious festival, the Foundation remains close to its objectives: to promote Russian cultural excellence, encourage intercultural exchanges between musicians of different nationalities and to support intergenerational learning.

«The Verbier Festival symbolises for me, as for many music lovers, the best of classical music in an exceptional setting and in front of a highly demanding audience,» explains Elena Timchenko, President of the Neva Foundation. *«I have always been sensitive to the importance given to Russian composers and musicians by the Festival. To celebrate the 5th anniversary of our collaboration, we wanted to get involved and contribute even more to the international influence of the Festival and the Russian performers it invites. Of course, we will also continue to encourage young talented musicians in the VFA and the VFJO programmes, which beautifully exemplify our mission of intercultural sharing and learning.»*

The Foundation Neva, Switzerland, and the Elena and Guennadi Timchenko Foundation, Russia, bring together the Timchenko family's numerous philanthropic activities in Russia and Europe.

www.neva-foundation.org



THE VERBIER FESTIVAL AND MEDICI.TV CELEBRATE THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

This year, the Verbier Festival and medici.tv celebrate 10 years of partnership. Hervé Boissière, Founder and Executive Director of this online channel shares how this project, the result of a wild venture, was born.

«In 2007, Martin T:son Engstroem wanted to film almost all of the Verbier Festival concerts. At that time, the concept of medici.tv had not yet been realised and words, such as streaming and webcast, were still unknown to the general public. However, we could not let such a good opportunity pass us by. It took only a few months to set up the first version of the website. Slightly anxious, we presented our wild idea to the Verbier Festival and its artists: that is, to share their talent with the whole world thanks to internet! medici.tv was launched and the Verbier Festival was its proud godfather.

Ten years after this world premiere, the adventure continues and never ceases to develop. The public's interest in these online broadcasts also grows. It is a source of joy that all these

unforgettable moments are preserved and lovingly recorded and are still alive as they are actively broadcast on VOD, TV, DVD... In all, since 2007, 244 concerts at the Verbier Festival have been filmed, over 10 million videos have been watched in 180 countries, and hundreds of interviews and backstage stories have been produced. This is the fantastic inheritance that we are proud to share today with the Verbier Festival, the artists and the public.

We, therefore, approach this 10th Verbier Festival with gratitude, motivated to take on new challenges this summer. Rendezvous live on 22 July!»

Hervé BOISSIERE
Founder & Executive Director, medici.tv

www.medici.tv

TICKET INFORMATION

TICKET OFFICE OPENS 8 MARCH 2016

TICKETS AVAILABLE:

Online

Discover our new online ticket shop! Choose your seats in the concert hall, add them to your shopping basket and pay by credit card. Tickets can be immediately downloaded and printed at home, or sent by post. Consult your personal account at any time for printing tickets, downloading them to a smartphone, checking your purchases...

Your online tickets will be available in PDF format.

Note:

Concessions (juniors, residents of Bagnes) are not available online. Please contact us by phone!

By phone

+41 (0) 848 771 882, from Monday to Friday 11 am to 5pm

Payment by credit card, payment slip or bank transfer

By post or fax

Billetterie du Verbier Festival
Case Postale
CH-1936 Verbier
Fax : +41 (0) 848 771 883

At the Fnac (in Switzerland, France and Belgium)
Not available for all concerts.



GETTING HERE

By plane

The closest airports to Verbier are Geneva and Zürich.

By train

About 2 hours and 30 minutes from Geneva and 4 hours from Zürich.

By car

1 hour and 45 minutes from Geneva and 3 hours from Zürich.

Disabled Access:

To ensure the best possible assistance, please book by phone

ACCREDITATION PROCEDURE

IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THE NEXT EDITION OF THE VERBIER FESTIVAL, YOU NEED TO MAKE AN ACCREDITATION REQUEST TO THE PRESS OFFICE.

Please fill in the press accreditation form and send it by 1st June 2016 by e-mail to the press contact of your country.

You can also print it out and send it via post to:

Press Department
4 rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau
CH - 1800 Vevey

Download your accreditation form here:

verbierfestival.com/en/espace-presse/
 (tab « Accreditation procedure »)

Conditions for press accreditation

If this is your first accreditation request or if you have not attended the Verbier Festival for several years, please also send us:

- A recent ID photo in .jpg format
- A scan of your press card
- A published preview of the Verbier Festival
- A short description of your editorial project at the Verbier Festival

If you have already been accredited to the Verbier Festival over the past 3 years, please send us (if not already done):

- A copy of your article / broadcast created during your previous visit to the Verbier Festival

Your accreditation is valid once it has been approved by the press office.

Please note that covering the Verbier Festival is a prerequisite for being invited to the Verbier Festival. The journalists who cannot provide a proof of their Verbier Festival coverage will not be re-invited the next year.

Services to accredited journalists

- **press badge:** The press badge allows identification on site and entitles you to numerous reductions in Verbier during the summer

- **press tickets:** a complimentary press ticket for the concerts of your choice

- **artist interviews:** the press office coordinates the interview requests and organises the encounters between the artists and the media

- **organisation of shootings for audiovisual media:** venue reservation, backstage access, interviews, filming authorisations from the artists, filming guidance

- **press centre:** free access to the press centre equipped with an Ethernet connection, WiFi access, and photocopier and a printer

- **transport service:** reimbursement of travel costs and help with transport organisation for foreign journalists

- **taxi service:** taxi pick-up from Martigny station for the journalists arriving by train

- **accommodation:** accommodation in a hotel or apartment for journalists from outside the canton. The Verbier Festival pays up to a maximum of three nights' accommodation per journalist.

Please note that travel and accommodation budgets are limited. If we receive your accreditation form after the deadline of 1st June 2016, we might not be able to guarantee the full reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs.

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

For all interview requests during the Festival, please complete the accreditation form specifying the name(s) of the artist(s) you wish to interview. We can also put you in touch with the artists who have been invited should you wish to write an article to appear before July 2016. Please do not hesitate to contact the press agent of your country.

Press photos

The Verbier Festival makes high resolution press photographs available to journalists and picture editors. These photographs, taken by the two official photographers of the Verbier Festival (**Nicolas Brodard** and **Aline Paley**) can be downloaded from our press photo database. It includes concert photos, images illustrating our pôles d'excellence and portraits of Martin Tison Engstroem.

The press photo database is password-protected. To receive the username and password, please get in touch with the press agent of your geographical area (press contacts).

Mailing list

To avoid missing any press information sent by the Verbier Festival, please sign up to our mailing list in the press zone on our website. Your details will be treated with complete confidentiality.

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22 July
to 7 August
2016

Verbier festival



22 JULY - 7 AUGUST 2016

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