



Press release

The 21st Festival of the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad online from 2 to 6 February 2021

Ensuring that culture carries on – despite everything

Martha Argerich, Renaud Capuçon, Nelson Goerner, Jean-Paul Gasparian, Bomsori Kim, Michel Dalberto, Alexandre Kantorow and Victor Julien-Laferrrière in the church of Saanen and live-streamed on the Festival's website

GSTAAD, 14 January 2021 – The Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, under the leadership of their artistic director Renaud Capuçon, will be streamed live for the first time in their history.

No efforts were spared to get the 21st edition of the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad on the road: having had to reinvent itself several times in response to the numerous restrictions imposed over the course of the last few months, the festival has fought to the bitter end to offer its supporters an exciting programme, even redesigning the arrangement of the audiences themselves. The initial aim was of course to offer a series of outstanding concerts to the public; but the Covid-19 crisis has, sadly, made this impossible. Therefore, with a view to spreading a message of hope, in recognition of the artists and the cultural sector that currently finds itself in a state of paralysis – and, of course, in order quite simply to ensure it continues to exist – the festival has decided to go ahead after all, but in a different form. Five concerts will be broadcast as live streams on the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad website. They can be watched free of charge on the Festival's site. The concerts will all be recorded and broadcast at a later date by our partners RTS – Espace 2 and Mezzo, for whose loyalty we are particularly grateful, as well as by Medici TV.

Stars in attendance

The great Martha Argerich will honour us with her presence in a programme for piano and violin (Beethoven's 'Kreutzer' Sonata for violin and piano no.9 and Franck's Sonata for violin and piano in A major FWV 8) and in a programme for two pianos (*En blanc et noir* for two pianos by Debussy and Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances for two pianos op.45b). Argerich will be in good company: she will be performing alongside our artistic director Renaud Capuçon – who has recently been appointed artistic director of the Orchestre de chambre de Lausanne – on 2 February at 7.30pm and on 3 February at 7.30pm with her fellow Argentinian Nelson Goerner, one of the finest pianists of his generation.

The teacher and his successor

The winner of the 2020 Prix Thierry Scherz at the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad festival, Jean-Paul Gasparian, will be accompanied by Bomsori Kim, who has recently appeared in concert and on record with Rafał Blechacz on Deutsche Grammophon, in the same programme as originally scheduled, devoted to the music of Beethoven (Sonata for violin and piano no.5 in F major op.24 'Spring'), Brahms (Sonata for violin and piano no.3 in D major op.108) and Szymanowski (Nocturne and Tarantella op.28 for violin and piano) on 4 February at 7.30pm. Winner of the first International Mozart Competition in Salzburg, the Prix Clara Haskil in 1975, First Prize in the Leeds International Piano Competition in 1978 and emeritus professor (teaching Jean-Paul Gasparian, among others), Michel Dalberto will perform his original programme on 5 February at 7.30pm, with Schubert's Sonatas no.19 in C minor D958 and no.21 in B flat major no.19 D960.

An unprecedented concert

The multi-award-winning pianist Alexandre Kantorow, whose albums have received rapturous reviews since his career took off after he won first prize in the legendary International Tchaikovsky Competition in 2019, will bring the festival to a close alongside French cellist Victor Julien-Laferrrière, who won first prize in the equally eminent Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, and our renowned artistic director and violinist Renaud Capuçon, whose vision and leadership have enabled this alternative version of the festival to take place, on 6 February at 7.30pm with Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio in A minor op.50 'À la mémoire d'un grand artiste' ('In memory of a great artist').

As the festival is unable to organize the concerts for its 'Young Talent' series, the two prestigious awards the Prix Thierry Scherz and Prix André Hoffmann unfortunately cannot be awarded this year.

The 22nd Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad in 2022

The festival would like to announce the dates of its 22nd edition, which will take place from 28 January to 6 February 2022.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our various partners, which include sponsors, foundations, associations and partner institutions, such as Vera Michalski-Hoffmann, president of the Festival, Aline Foriel-Destezet, Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, the friends of the festival, the Fondation Hoffmann, the Fondation Pro Scientia et Arte, the municipality of Saanen and surrounding towns, the canton of Bern and the Loterie Romande, to name only a few.

Association of the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad

President: Vera Michalski-Hoffmann

Director: Ombretta Ravessoud

Artistic director: Renaud Capuçon

The 2021 concerts can be watched, and re-watched, at

www.sommets-musicaux.ch

A brief look at the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad

From its inception in 2001, the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad have been hailed as the ultimate reference point in winter festivals, an event to delight all aficionados of classical music. Every year young talented musicians, internationally renowned artists and lovers of music gather in this enchanting snow-capped paradise to perform and enjoy some of the finest works in the classical repertory.

The festival is structured in three categories: three concert cycles spread across three outstanding venues. In the afternoon, the Gstaad Chapel hosts a selection of the most promising young artists. In the evening, the churches of Rougemont and Saanen delight audiences with the sounds of celebrated soloists and internationally renowned orchestras.

Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad

Founded following the initial series of concerts, the friends' association Les Amis des Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, under the leadership of its new chairman Pierre Dreyfus, offers invaluable support to the Festival.

Press section: <http://www.sommetsmusicaux.ch/presse/>

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