



Press release

The 21st edition of the Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad online

A resounding success

Martha Argerich, Renaud Capuçon, Nelson Goerner, Jean-Paul Gasparian, Bomsori Kim, Michel Dalberto, Alexandre Kantorow and Victor Julien-Laferrière, performing in the church of Saanen, are all available to watch on the festival's website and YouTube channel

GSTAAD, 18 February 2021 – Concerts streamed live from the Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad 2021 have been watched far beyond the borders of Switzerland

For their 21st edition, the Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad have managed to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles they have had to face. The festival's staff, artistic director Renaud Capuçon and the artists scheduled to perform have shown remarkable patience and great flexibility right up to the very last minute, given the magnitude of the restrictions and challenges they have faced. It was decided that the festival would go ahead, with a view to spreading a message of hope and in a spirit of solidarity with the artists who have suffered so much and the audiences who have been deprived of concerts for so long.

Five concerts were streamed live on the Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad's website and YouTube channel. These were concerts of exceptional musical quality in which the delight of the musicians at being able to meet and share the moment with their audience was plain to see. This, of course, was an audience that had to be imagined, but still very much present, with 20,000 people watching the five concerts and 40,000 visiting the festival's various platforms over the course of the week. The festival's organizational team was pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm generated by this unique event, with a virtual audience assembled from far beyond the borders of Switzerland. This excitement can be seen in the comments and palpable enthusiasm of an audience evidently grateful for these concerts available to watch again and again on the Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad's website and YouTube channel. The festival is also delighted with the outstanding broadcast quality of these concerts, and is grateful to its partners RTS – Espace 2 and Mezzo/Medici. This year's concerts were also a great success on Medici TV. Broadcast from 3 to 7 February 2021 and available free of charge on the medici.tv website, our concerts were viewed by a total audience of 60'000 people in 82 countries and 771 cities. The 2018-2020 programme of the Festival Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad will be in the spotlight on Mezzo TV in March 2021 as part of the *Swiss Month* campaign. The concerts of the 2021 edition will be broadcast at a later date on RTS – Espace 2 and Mezzo. We will keep you updated on the broadcast dates on our various platforms.

The Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad would also like to take this opportunity to thank its sponsors, and the companies, associations and corporate partners that support it, such as Vera Michalski-Hoffmann, president of the Festival, Les Amis des Sommetts Musicaux de Gstaad – the friends of the festival – the municipality of Saanen and surrounding towns, the canton of Bern and the Loterie Romande, as well as the Gstaad Palace, to name only a few, without whose support the 2021 festival could not have happened. Thanks are also due to the media outlets that have been an invaluable support to the festival in communicating its message.

The festival is pleased to invite you to its 22nd edition, from 28 January to 5 February 2022. We can already announce that the young violinists in contention for the Prix Thierry Scherz and the Prix André Hoffmann who were unable to appear this year will be on the programme next year:

- Louisa-Rose Staples
- Elise Bertrand
- Dmitry Smirnov

- Shuichi Okada
- Anna Egholm
- Thomas Lefort
- Alexandra Cooreman
- Rebecca Roozeman

As we look forward to seeing you again in 2022, we invite you to relive the performances of the incomparable Martha Argerich with Renaud Capuçon and her fellow Argentinian Nelson Goerner. Pianist Jean-Paul Gasparian and violinist Bomsori Kim can also be heard, as can their distinguished teacher Michel Dalberto, along with pianist Alexandre Kantorow with French cellist Victor Julien-Laferrière and our artistic director, violinist Renaud Capuçon. All of these artists can be viewed free of charge on the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad's website and YouTube channel.

We can't wait to see you again from 28 January to 5 February 2022 for the 22nd Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad. It's a date!

Association of the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad

President: Vera Michalski-Hoffmann
Director: Ombretta Ravessoud
Artistic director: Renaud Capuçon

The 2021 concerts can be viewed at

www.sommets-musicaux.ch

A brief look at the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad

From its inception in 2001, the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad has 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 will delight their 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.

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