

## **Arthur Hinnewinkel wins the Thierry Scherz Prize and the André Hoffmann Prize**

After a week-long piano competition, Arthur Hinnewinkel has won both the Thierry Scherz Prize and the André Hoffmann Prize. He convinced the jury, composed of resident composer Karol Beffa, pianist Michel Dalberto—who replaced Stephen Hough as mentor throughout the week—and Claves Records' director Patrick Peikert. Hinnewinkel, also a finalist at the 30th Clara Haskil International Piano Competition in Vevey in 2023, was unanimously praised for his Beethoven and Schumann program and his world premiere interpretation of "Night and Day" by Karol Beffa.

The Thierry Scherz Prize, sponsored by the Friends of the Festival Association, gives Arthur Hinnewinkel the opportunity to record his first CD with orchestra with Claves Records SA.

## **Huge success of the Rougemont concerts in 2024**

The concerts held at the Rougemont church saw tremendous attendance, with sold-out performances by Bruce Liu on January 28 and the Hagen Quartet on February 1. On January 29, the voices of La Sportelle ensemble achieved great success. The audience also gathered on January 31 for a concert featuring Emmanuel Pahud and several young musicians, including Anna Agafia, the 2022 Thierry Scherz Prize winner. The free concert on January 28 at 11 am attracted a wide audience, eager to hear Edgar Moreau after a Sunday walk.

## **Cultural Mediation**

On January 30, another free concert was offered to local children, attended annually by classes from both public and private schools in the region. In total, 120 children aged 4 to 12, including 80 children from public schools and 80% German-speaking, received an introduction to "The Beautiful Maguelone" in class and attended the performance with Marthe Keller as narrator, featuring Brahms lieder performed by Christian Immler and Fabrizio Chiovetta on piano. This was a moment of great enthusiasm not only for the children but also for the performers! The festival also offers free concert attendance to young local music students and plans to develop more cultural mediation projects.

## **Saanen concerts remain a highlight**

The major concerts in Saanen always draw a large audience. This was the case for the "Quartet for the End of Time" performed on January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz camp. Composed and written during Olivier Messiaen's captivity, this work is inspired by the Apocalypse of Saint John and is a tribute to the Angel announcing the end of time. The concert, sold out, provided a profound moving experience for both the audience and performers. Saanen church was also filled for the orchestra concerts with soloists: young violin star Daniel Lozakovich on January 30 and renowned pianist Bertrand Chamayou on February 2. The festival concluded with a grand finale featuring the great piano lady, Martha Argerich, performing "Symphonic Dances" for two pianos with Nelson Goerner, followed by "The Carnival of the Animals" with Annie Dutoit as a brilliant narrator.

## **A Democratic Pricing Policy**

Everyone can attend the concerts starting at 30 francs. Young people receive a 50% discount, and locals get 10% off. It's worth noting that all dinners after the Saanen church concerts are open to the public. The 25th edition of the Gstaad Sommets Musicaux will take place from January 31 to February 8, 2025. The festival will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Follow us to stay informed!