

Press Release, 28 July 2022

Season opening with the premier of the Andermatt Goethe Days:

Andermatt Music celebrates Goethe

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was apparently so enchanted by the Uri Alps that he made three trips. Andermatt Music opens its new season with a tribute to Goethe's visits to the Gotthard Massif. Held on the 13 and 14 of August 2022, the event will include a lied recital along with an extensive accompanying programme. The acclaimed tenor and Lucerne native Mauro Peter is performing Schubert's Goethe settings, considered to be the epitome of the art of the lied. He will be accompanied by Joseph Middleton on the piano. The Goethe Days are designed as a weekend festival and will be incorporated in future seasons.

"Goethe and Andermatt" – almost a love affair: "Of all the places that I know, this is to me the loveliest and most interesting." Goethe, considered by many to be the greatest poet of all time, undertook three trips to the Gotthard Massif and Andermatt. And not just passing through on the way to somewhere else – his visits to Andermatt were planned, and he travelled there specifically to make enquiries. His third Gotthard journey also took him to Stäfa on Lake Zurich, where he first encountered the legend of William Tell. Goethe considered writing a play about Tell, but could not properly devote himself to the material and passed it on to his friend Friedrich Schiller. Schiller used it to create his most well-known play. However, Goethe was so fascinated with the Tell legend that he wanted to visit its original locations. It was the local landscapes, rocks, crystals, animals and plants that especially piqued his interest. The mountains brought him much inspiration. "It's not well known that Andermatt became an integral part of Goethe's DNA. We will use the Goethe Days to experience anew Goethe's travels to Andermatt and at the same time shed light on his connections to music," says Artistic Director Lena-Lisa Wüstendörfer.

The main event of day 1 will be a lied recital titled "Von Herzen zu Herzen", featuring works composed by Franz Schubert with texts by Goethe and celebrated in the classical music world as masterpieces in the art of the lied. The recital will be performed by celebrated Swiss tenor Mauro Peter and the British pianist and lied specialist Joseph Middleton. Mauro Peter has performed leading roles at the Zurich Opera, La Scala and the Salzburg Festival.

"Wer reitet so spät durch Nacht und Wind? Es ist der Vater mit seinem Kind". These almost magical words from Goethe's poem "Erkönig" are a highlight from Schubert's settings of Goethe's poems. But these wonderful compositions also harbour a tragedy. Throughout his life, Schubert had vied for Goethe's attention and favour. However, they never met in person and the composer's letters to the esteemed poet went unanswered.

Programme with string quartet, podium discussion and exhibition

A podium discussion is dedicated to the 225th anniversary of Goethe's third Gotthard journey. The discussion will be moderated by music journalist Patricia Moreno with Dr Margrit Wyder, president of the Goethe-Gesellschaft Schweiz, Mayor of Stäfa Christian Haltner and dramaturg Andreas Baumgartner. The Camerata Uri string quartet will perform a concert in the municipality of Airolo, south of the Gotthard. The quartet will perform works by Schubert and Mozart amongst the crystal caverns of the former Sasso San Gottardo fortress. And the public has the chance to visit the exhibition "Goethe am Gotthard – Höhepunkte seiner Reisen durch die Schweiz" (Goethe on the Gotthard – Highlights of his journeys through Switzerland), the world's first on this subject.

Programme

"Von Herzen zu Herzen", Andermatt Concert Hall, 13.08.2022, 7.30 pm
Lied recital featuring Goethe poems set to music by Schubert
Mauro Peter, tenor
Joseph Middleton, piano

Events

Podium discussion, Andermatt Concert Hall, 13.08.2022, 4.30 pm
225th anniversary of Goethe's third Gotthard journey
Dr Margrit Wyder, president of Goethe-Gesellschaft Schweiz
Christian Haltner, Mayor of Stäfa
Andreas Baumgartner, dramaturg
Moderation: Patricia Moreno, music journalist

Guided exhibition visit, Museum Sasso San Gottardo, 14.08.2022, 10.30 am
"Goethe on the Gotthard — Highlights of his journeys through Switzerland"

The string quartet Camerata Uri, Sasso San Gottardo Crystal Caverns, 14.08.2022, 11.30 am
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: String Quartet in D minor, KV 421
Franz Schubert: String Quartet in D major, D 94
Michael Schwyter, actor
Alexandra Bissig, violin
Maria Gehrig, violin
Christian Zraggen, viola
Trix Zumsteg, cello

Programme and tickets

goethe-tage-andermatt.ch
andermattmusic.ch/en/concerts-and-tickets/

Andermatt Music

Andermatt Music brings music off the beaten track to Andermatt Concert Hall, Switzerland's highest concert venue. Andermatt Music presents around 20 concerts annually. This year, the Swiss conductor and musicologist Lena-Lisa Wüstendörfer has taken the helm as Artistic Director. Her programme centres on the three pillars "Swiss Orchestra – Schweizer Klassik", "World Stage – Welt Bühne" and "Local Roots – Heimat Klänge". In addition to the Swiss Orchestra as orchestra in residence, Andermatt Music features acclaimed classical music stars, world-famous orchestras and outstanding Swiss ensembles. Andermatt Music establishes the Alpine destination as a magnet for classical music fans and guests from all over the world, as well as a cultural meeting point for Central Switzerland. andermattmusic.ch

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