

Press Release, 2 February 2023

A weekend of chamber music with moving classics and authentic folk music:

A top Berlin ensemble and “woman power” come to Andermatt

Classical music fans can look forward to a special treat: the Philharmonic String Quartet Berlin, made up of members of the world-famous Berlin Philharmonic, is coming to Andermatt to present an evening of enchanting and melancholic melodies on 18 February. The next day, the four young women of “Eiger Mönch & UrSchwyz” present a mix of well-known and new folk music in Andermatt. A weekend of chamber music guaranteed to thrill both classical and folk music fans alike.

The Philharmonic String Quartet, consisting of musicians from the world-famous Berlin Philharmonic, present a moving concert featuring intensely beautiful and melancholic works – a soothing prospect for moments of sorrow. Samuel Barber’s popular “Adagio for Strings” was voted “the saddest piece of all time” by BBC listeners. The piece, performed at the funerals of John F. Kennedy, Grace Kelly, and Albert Einstein, will now be heard in Andermatt against a breathtaking mountain backdrop. Concert-goers may also look forward to Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy’s String Quartet No. 6, composed by the Romantic composer from Berlin whilst in Interlaken and Leipzig. The work has an astoundingly forceful and highly expressive character, with capricious alternation between minor and major keys. The concert will also feature works by Fanny Hensel (Mendelssohn’s sister) and Giacomo Puccini.

The second day of the chamber music weekend features the ensemble “Eiger Mönch & UrSchwyz” – four young women, four string instruments, and a few surprises. In Andermatt, they will present music from Switzerland and beyond, which in their own words translates as “local”, “traditional”, “quirky” and “modern” – old Muotathal and Appenzell dances together with new works by renowned composers such as Markus Flückiger, Dani Häusler, Fränggi Gehrig, and Noldi Alder. The group will also perform their own compositions as well as Nordic folk music works. Guest artists Fränggi Gehrig, Andermatt local hero and accordionist, and Dani Häusler, versatile folk musician and presenter from Unterägeri, round off the evening with new compositions of their own.

Top ensembles at Andermatt

These two string quartet ensembles couldn’t be more different, but both represent outstanding quality in music. The special feature of the string quartet is that it actually “simulates” an entire orchestra, with the bass voice being taken up by a cello or contrabass rather than by a harpsichord or other keyboard instrument. And it would be inconceivable to imagine traditional folk music without the unmistakable sound of the contrabass.

Programme, Saturday, 18 February 2023, 7.30 PM

Philharmonic String Quartet of the Berlin Philharmonic
World-Class Chamber Music

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

I Crisantemi. Andante mesto

Fanny Hensel (1805-1847)

String quartet in E-flat major

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

String quartet, op. 11, Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

String quartet No. 6 in f minor, op. 80

Artists

Helena Madoka Berg, violin

Dorian Xhoxhi, violin

Naoko Shimizu, viola

Christoph Heesch, cello

Programme, Sunday, 19 February 2023, 4.30 PM

Eiger Mönch & UrSchwyz

New Folk Music

Artists

Maria Gehrig, violin

Hanna Landolt, violin

Kristina Brunner, cello & schwyzerörgeli

Evelyn Brunner, double bass

Guests

Dani Häusler, clarinet

Fränggi Gehrig, accordion

Programme and tickets

<https://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.

<https://andermattmusic.ch/en/>

Media contact

Padrutt PR

Paul Martin Padrutt, paul.padrutt@padruttr.ch - Tel. +41 (0)43 268 33 71