

Press Release, 23 March 2023

A Fairy Tale in Andermatt

Stravinsky's Masterpiece

The Swiss Orchestra, together with conductor Lena-Lisa Wüstendörfer and narrator Andri Schenardi, bring Igor Stravinsky's "The Soldier's Tale" to the Andermatt stage. This old fairy tale, conceived as "music theatre for a small ensemble" for a wandering troupe, involves a violin, a magic book, a supposed pledge by the Devil and a promise of great wealth. A thrilling tale for adults and older children. Performed live in the highest-lying concert hall in Europe on 9 April 2023 (Easter Sunday), courtesy of Andermatt Music.

The folk tale begins with a homeward-bound soldier's fateful trade with the Devil. The soldier gives his violin to the Devil and teaches him to play in three days. In return, he is given a book with mysterious content that should lead him to great wealth. But the trade comes with a price because the Devil has his hand in the game. Finally, the soldier meets and marries a princess, and the story has a happy end. The tale is narrated by actor Andri Schenardi (a native of Altdorf) and played by soloists of the Swiss Orchestra conducted by Lena-Lisa Wüstendörfer.

From "Tatort" to Andermatt

Andri Schenardi is a multifaceted actor and Uri native, born in Altdorf. He completed his dramatic studies at the Zurich University of the Arts and then went on to make a name for himself on the stage and screen, including the title role in "Hamlet". In the "Tatort" episode "Die Musik spielt bis zuletzt", he played the wealthy entrepreneur and arts patron Franky Loving. This special episode of the legendary TV crime series was filmed in one continuous take, making crime show history.

"Between Chur and Walenstadt..."

The German version of Stravinsky's work describes a soldier journeying home "between Chur and Walenstadt", setting the action of this old Russian folk tale in Switzerland. Between 1915 and 1920, Stravinsky was living in Lausanne. The First World War had disrupted productions in theatres, and so he and renowned local poet Charles Ferdinand Ramuz conceived a stage work "for a small instrumental ensemble". The result, "The Soldier's Tale", was a work that could be performed by travelling theatre troupes. In the "Andermatt version", narrator Andri Schenardi shifts the location from Walenstadt to Andermatt, taking advantage of the latter's famous legend of the Devil's Bridge – and because the people here know just how to deal with the Devil.

Programme, Sunday, 9 April 2023, 4.30 PM

Music Theatre for Small Ensemble

Igor Stravinsky (1892–1971)

L'Histoire du soldat

Artists

Soloists of the Swiss Orchestra

Lena-Lisa Wüstendörfer, conductor

Andri Schenardi, actor

Programme and tickets

<https://andermattmusic.ch/en/event/a-soldiers-tale/>

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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