



Gstaad Academy

The transmission of knowledge and experience from one generation to the next has been a mission that has occupied the entire life of the immense musician and humanist Yehudi Menuhin, who founded our Festival in 1957.

It is with the idea of perpetuating its commitment to the next generation that we created the Gstaad Academy in 2008: a structure in its own right to support an increasingly rich academic offer. At the Gstaad Academy we offer the complete range of master courses addressed to young professionals, as well as all the courses which are aimed at amateur orchestra musicians of all ages.

Professional students can choose from a selection of customized master courses with opportunities of high-profile performance, while enjoying the platform of a leading international music festival which not only offers master courses but stages top-quality concerts on a daily basis.

Ambitious amateurs can count on an altogether joyful experience of practical music-making as well as experiencing spectacular concert performances.

The courses are directed by highly regarded musicians who have taken time off from their professional commitments for the sake of passing on their knowledge.

For the audience, the public parts of Gstaad Academy are a perfect opportunity of watching the artistic activities of upcoming musicians and their mentors in live. The works elaborated are then performed in the final concerts. It is thus possible to directly participate in the upcoming talents' interesting development within a short period. The following applies to all public events of the Gstaad Academy: free admission with collection; no advance booking.

Selected master classes and final concerts from the Gstaad Academy can be experienced during the festival via live stream on the internet platform "Gstaad Digital Festival":

www.gstaaddigitalfestival.ch

Several extracts of the Live-Streams recorded during previous editions of the various academies are available as clips on the long term.

People's experiences at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival are also unique in being coloured by the magical environment of Switzerland's Saanenland countryside, one of the most beautiful Alpine foothill regions to be found anywhere in the world.

With the Gstaad Academy, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival is pursuing the overall aim of maintaining the spirit created by the founder of the festival, Lord Yehudi Menuhin, who for 40 years invited to Gstaad not only his established artist friends such as Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears and Maurice Gendron, but also his students and young musicians particularly worthy of support, to work and make music with them.

Gstaad Conducting Academy

The **Gstaad Conducting Academy** offers promising young conductors the opportunity, up until now unique in Europe, to work with a highly professional orchestra – the Gstaad Festival Orchestra (GFO) – for 2 weeks and to hold concerts, all under the direction of exceptional conductors.

After all events of the Gstaad Conducting Academy had to be cancelled in the summer of 2020 due to the worldwide pandemic, the 7th edition in summer 2021 will once again be led by conductor Jaap van Zweden. The Dutch conductor van Zweden - Music Director of the New York Philharmonic since the 2018/19 season - had already held the reins of the Gstaad Conducting Academy in 2017 and 2018.

Owing to the Gstaad Festival Orchestra, which is available as orchestra in residence for the Gstaad Conducting Academy, the participants have the opportunity to work with a highly professional orchestra and to gather musical experience at rehearsals and concerts.

The course of the Gstaad Conducting Academy is divided into two parts.

The first part (31 July-4 August) conducted by Johannes Schlaefli – is dedicated to great symphonic works by Brahms (*4th Symphony*) and works by Mozart and Beethoven (*excerpts from symphonies*) as well as by Weber (*Overture to Oberon*).

In the second part (6-10 August) Jaap van Zweden will finally work with the participants on the 7th Symphony by Dvořák as well as soloist concertos such as the 1st Piano Concerto by Tchaikovsky and the Cello Concerto by Elgar.

All the rehearsals (the lessons) are recorded on video for the students. The film recordings are analysed together with the professors and used for detailed feedback. The video material is made available to the participants, so that they can watch themselves critically.

This year, the **Neeme Järvi Prize** will be awarded to one or more participants at the Gstaad Conducting Academy for the sixth time. The winner(s) of the award are invited to take on conducting various Swiss professional orchestras during the 2022/23 season, including the Basel Chamber Orchestra and the Basel Symphony Orchestra.

Gstaad String Academy

The **Gstaad String Academy** will be held for the eighth time from 29th July to 7th August. Around seven violin students, five viola students and five cello students will fine-tune their technique and interpretation under the competent direction of the professors **Rainer Schmidt** (violin), **Ettore Causa** (viola) und **Ivan Monighetti** (violoncello). The aim of the String Academy is to improve the abilities of the students on their own instruments, as well as to foster an exchange with other musicians, especially with regard to chamber music.

The chamber music concert by the String Academy, in which the students perform together with their professors, will take place on 4th August this year at the Church of Lauenen (19h30).

Furthermore, students of the String Academy have the opportunity to exercise their skills in one of the concerts on 6th August (Hotel Landhaus Saanen) and 7th August (Church of Gsteig).

Gstaad Baroque Academy

During the eighth edition of the **Gstaad Baroque Academy**, which will be held from 29th August to 4th September at Wellness- & Spa-Hotel Ermitage, young musicians will receive all-round support from the recorder player and conductor **Maurice Steger** – whether it is technical advice, conveying expert knowledge about the music and the historical period, guiding and trying out musical ideas, or the social strengthening of the group. The students benefit from individual and chamber music lessons. Professor Maurice Steger is supported by a team consisting of further specialists in early music. At the end of the course, a final concert is held as a highlight (Sat., 4th September, 17.30, Church of Rougemont).

Final concerts

L'Heure Bleue – *Concert for all*

The Gstaad Academy concerts are held as part of the cycle **L'Heure Bleue – *Concert for all***. The concerts always begin at 17.30: a good hour of music, without a break. L'Heure Bleue, the hour between work and the evening programme, gives students at the Academy the opportunity to present themselves and what has been learnt at the Academy and to perform with major stars as part of a renowned festival. For the public, L'Heure Bleue is an opportunity to experience the talent of young musicians live. The term *Concert for all* already implies that the concerts in this series are intended for listeners of all kinds – whether experienced concertgoers, newcomers to classical music, young or old. And the format is also ideally suited for families because they can also come and go during the concert. For all concerts in the series *L'Heure Bleue – Concert for all*, the following applies: free admission with collection.