

65th Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy | 16 July – 4 September 2021

“London”

2021 marks a new milestone in the Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy's summer pilgrimages through the great musical capitals. Destination: London. A cosmopolitan city par excellence, it provides the possibility of creating a programme of rare diversity. From the 17th to the beginning of the 19th century, London was bustling with musicians, mainly from continental Europe, with Handel at the forefront of the movement. But celebrating England also means remembering that it was in this proud and powerful land that the founding father of our event had his strongest ties; this citizen of the world was given the title “Lord Menuhin of Stoke of Abernon” by the Queen in 1993, sixty-one years after his mythical meeting with Sir Edward Elgar under the Abbey Road microphones. It is also worth remembering that he was accompanied on stage in Saanen in August 1957 for the inaugural concert of the Festival by pianist and composer Benjamin Britten and his partner, tenor Peter Pears, both subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty.

The Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy 2021 is ...

- **A shower of stars:** mezzo-soprano **Anne Sofie von Otter** (with a tribute to Shakespeare that will take her from Thomas Morley to... Rufus Wainwright!), tenor **Juan Diego Flórez** (protagonist of a great symphonic evening highlighting the traditions of his native Peru), baritone **Thomas Hampson**, pianists **Hélène Grimaud** (with Mozart's 20th Concerto conducted by Giovanni Antonini and then in recital), **Khatia Buniatishvili** (with Tchaikovsky's First Symphony) and **Maria João Pires** (with Beethoven's Opus 111), conductor **Valery Gergiev** and his team of musicians from the Mariinsky of Theater in St. Petersburg (for two exceptional evenings), violinist **Julia Fischer** (as soloist AND head of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields), the **King's Singers** (literally a must this in this “totally British” summer and cellist **Sol Gabetta**, figurehead of the event, who could not have chosen a more beautiful setting for this London summer than Elgar's sublime Concerto.

- **An opera in concert form:** Bellini's “**I puritani**” performed by Domingo Hindoyan and the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande with – in the leading roles – sopranos Lisette Oropesa and Annalisa Stroppa, tenor Javier Camarena, and baritones Erwin Schrott and George Petean.

GSTAAD MENUHIN FESTIVAL & ACADEMY

- **Carte blanche for Daniel Hope**, disciple of Lord Menuhin (whom he has known since his earliest childhood) and a loyal Festival participant, who will be offering three contrasting glimpses of English music (from chamber music to a cappella singing).
- **A new group of "Menuhin's Heritage Artists"** with at the end a five-year "contract of trust": trumpet player **Lucienne Renaudin Vary** (offering a kaleidoscope of musical emotions in the company of accordionist Félicien Brut), pianist **Alexandre Kantorow** (performing with Valery Gergiev in Prokofiev's Second Concerto) and violinists **Bomsori Kim** and **Nemanja Radulovic**.
- **Outstanding recitals** in the region's magnificent churches led by singer Thomas Hampson, pianists Paul Lewis, Sebastian Knauer, András Schiff, Bertrand Chamayou, Fazil Say, Marie-Ange Nguci and Alexandra Dovgan, violinists Isabelle Faust, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Renaud Capuçon and Nathan Mierdl (winner of the 2020 Pop-up Festival), and the Belcea Quartet.
- **Symphonic evenings** in the Gstaad Festival Tent: two evenings led by Jaap van Zweden and the Gstaad Festival Orchestra, two more led by Valery Gergiev and his orchestra from the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg (with pianist Alexander Kantorow in Prokofiev's Second Concerto and violinist Alexandra Conunova in Sibelius' Concerto), and a fabulous final concert devoted to the most famous English film scores to be performed by Kevin Griffiths and the City Light Symphony Orchestra.
- **The Gstaad Festival Orchestra**, which in 2021 will see the return of Jaap van Zweden, conductor of the prestigious New York Philharmonic since the 2018/19 season; the Orchestra not only performs during the Festival but also on tour throughout Europe, and takes an active part in the Gstaad Conducting Academy (led by the very same Jaap van Zweden accompanied by Professor Johannes Schlaefli): www.gstaadfestivalorchestra.com

Furthermore...

- **An Early Music immersion** with Hervé Niquet and his Concert Spirituel (performing Handel's choral "hits"), the Tenebrae Choir of London (ranging from Renaissance to modern times), Maurice Steger and Rachel Podger (who are taking us to dinner with "Mr. Handel").
- **A platform for young soloists**: the eight "Matinées des Jeunes Etoiles" on Saturday in the Gstaad Chapel, the soloists of the International Menuhin Music Academy (led by Oleg Kaskiv and their new artistic director Renaud Capuçon), and the laureates of the Kiefer-Hablitzel | Göhner Foundation.

GSTAAD
MENUHIN
FESTIVAL
& ACADEMY

• **Musical encounters off the beaten track** performed by the Janoska Ensemble, guitarist Milos Karadaglic (taking us on a journey from Bach to the Beatles), pianist Alice Sara Ott (playing Chopin's Preludes and other composers' gems) and the 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, not to mention the traditional concert on the mountain pasture above Lauenen with the brass and percussion of the Gstaad Festival Orchestra.

And of course...

• **An academic package** dedicated this year to Orchestra Conducting, Strings and Baroque Music, with its share of masterclasses – led by professors such as Jaap van Zweden, Rainer Schmidt, Ettore Causa, Ivan Monighetti and Maurice Steger – and concerts open to the public under the label “**L'Heure Bleue**”: www.gstaadacademy.ch.

• **A wide range of “Discovery” programmes for children and families** under the "Gstaad Discovery" label: fun introductions, tailor-made concerts, meetings with artists, backstage tours...

• **The streaming platform “Gstaad Digital Festival”** enables you to experience or relive the best moments of the festival throughout the year, with the added bonus of interviews with artists, specialist reviews and unique behind-the-scenes insights into the event.