



Media Release

Gala Fundraising Event of the American Friends of Lucerne Festival in New York with Walter B. Kielholz as Gala Honoree

Yesterday, some 210 guests gathered at the Morgan Library & Museum for the annual gala event held by the American Friends of Lucerne Festival. The evening included a musical performance by an alumni ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Academy conducted by Matthias Pintscher.

Lucerne/New York, 24 May 2017. Yesterday, New York's Morgan Library & Museum served as the venue for the annual gala fundraising event held by the American Friends of Lucerne Festival, the most important international organization of the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival. Since their founding, the American Friends have raised 4 million Swiss francs via fundraising events.

More than 210 guests attended the cocktail reception and dinner, which were followed by an exclusive private concert. Under the direction of conductor Mathhias Pinscher, the ensemble of the Lucerne Festival Alumni performed Johann Sebastian Bach's Brandenburgisches Concert No. 5 in D-major BWV 1050. In his laudatory speech, the Chairman of the Lucerne Festival Board of Trustees, Dr. Hubert Achermann, honoured Walter B. Kielholz for his merits and presented him with a Carl F. Bucherer watch. Walter B. Kielholz is a long-standing member of the Board of Trustees of the Lucerne Festival. Through his untiring efforts and commitment, he has for many years actively supported various cultural activities, in particular the Lucerne Festival. With his extensive network which reaches far beyond the local community, Walter B. Kielholz has contributed substantially to the internationalisation of the Festival.

The American Friends of Lucerne Festival have supported the Festival since 2002. Their concrete mission is to enable highly gifted young musicians to participate in the Lucerne Festival Academy – each summer almost half of the students come from the United States.

Along with André Schaller, the Swiss ambassador in New York, and his wife Brigitte Schaller, guests at the event included Albert Behler (Chairman, CEO and President of the Paramount Group) as well as Paul Volcker (former Chairman of the Federal Reserve and former Chairman of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board), Ara Guzelimian (Provost and Dean of the Juilliard School), Alan Vickery (Partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP and Chairman of the American Friends of LUCERNE FESTIVAL) and his wife Christine Vickery, Mike Pritula (President of RMS), Dr. Christian Casal (Director at McKinsey & Company Switzerland as well as Member of the Board of Trustees of LUCERNE FESTIVAL), James Capalino (Founder and CEO of Capalino+Company) and Ron Stoll (CEO Carl F. Bucherer North America).

The event has further been supported by Cynthia Sculco, Bruce and Suzie Kovner, James Capalino and Carlin Vickery.

A photo gallery of the event can be found at the following link:
<https://www.lucernefestival.ch/de/presse/fotos>



About Lucerne Festival

Lucerne Festival encompasses a series of internationally leading festivals in the realm of classical music. Each year three distinct festivals take place: the Easter Festival, the Summer Festival, and the Piano Festival. Lucerne Festival was founded in 1938; Michael Haefliger has been Executive and Artistic Director since 1999. Each year the most acclaimed symphony orchestras come to Lucerne to perform: these include such ensembles as the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra, which was founded in 2004 by Claudio Abbado and Michael Haefliger, brings internationally acclaimed orchestral musicians to Lucerne each summer for a two-week period. Starting in 2016 Riccardo Chailly will be the orchestra's new Music Director.

Along with cultivating the traditional repertoire, contemporary music plays an essential role at Lucerne Festival in terms of programming and education. Equally important is the development of emerging talent through the programs offered by Lucerne Festival Young and the Lucerne Festival Academy. The Academy, which was founded by Pierre Boulez and Michael Haefliger, will be under a new directorship starting in 2016, with Artistic Director Wolfgang Rihm and Principal Conductor Matthias Pintscher. As Lucerne Festival Alumni, former participants in the Academy continue to have an impact in Lucerne and around the world through first-class concert projects. The KKL Luzern, a complex designed by Jean Nouvel and celebrated for its outstanding acoustics and its architecture alike, serves as the central venue for Lucerne Festival.

About the Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival

The Foundation Friends of Lucerne Festival was founded in 1966. Today the Friends make annual contributions that amount to about 8% of the total budget of Lucerne Festival, thereby contributing significantly to the Festival's financial security and sustainability. In this way the Friends not only have developed into the largest sponsor of the Festival but have also become an important ambassador through their moral support.

A total of about 500 ambassadors in Switzerland and around the world currently provide support for Lucerne Festival. The majority of international Friends of Lucerne Festival come from Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Spain, Israel, Hong Kong, from the United States and from Japan.

Board of the American Friends of Lucerne Festival

Alan B. Vickery (Chairman), Richard Matlaga (Treasurer & Secretary), Dr. iur. Hubert Achermann, Stanley Bergman, Yefim Bronfman, Beatrice Ducrot, Mike T. Foley, Michael Haefliger, Cynthia Sculco

Valentina Rota, Director of Development

The gala fundraising event in New York was supported by Vontobel, represented through Vontobel Swiss Wealth Advisors AG Inc., as Main Sponsor and by Swiss Re and Zurich Insurance North America as Co-Sponsors.

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