

Media Release

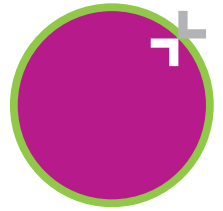
“A Symphony for Lucerne”

On 1 August a new project for the Lucerne region will be launched: the American composer Tod Machover plans to collaborate with residents of Lucerne to create a symphony that is a sonic portrait of the city. He is putting out a call for people to collect sounds, contribute melodies and timbres, and help shape the structure and feel of the entire collaborative composition. The world premiere will take place on 5 September 2015 as part of LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer.

Lucerne, 26 June 2014. “I hear Lucerne – what do you hear?” Cowbells, traffic noise, snatches of conversation in multiple languages, Carnival band music, a ship’s horn, the laughter of children, water everywhere: the sonic picture of the City of Lucerne is diverse. Everyone has their own associations of its many noises and sounds, beautiful and ugly, loud and soft, from natural, industrial or human sources. Tod Machover - from the famous MIT Media Lab (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Boston - has been commissioned by LUCERNE FESTIVAL for a new project; starting on 1 August he will be listening to Lucerne and its citizens, to collect sounds and musical ideas in the widest variety of ways. Everything he gathers will provide the source for a symphony for orchestra which he will compose. The world premiere will take place on 5 September 2015 with the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY Orchestra under the direction of the acclaimed composer and conductor Matthias Pintscher.

Anyone who has a connection to Lucerne is invited to participate and to make their own creative contributions, regardless of age or musical background. On the website www.sinfoniefürLuzern.ch, which provides information and updates about the project, everyone can upload sonic contribution starting on 1 August. In addition, a free app is planned that will let you record sounds and noises using a smartphone and then transmit them directly to the composer. Anyone not comfortable with the world of the internet and smartphones can of course also become involved offline and meet the composer in person. Until the spring of 2015 Tod Machover plans to travel regularly to Lucerne and to be active on site. From 23 to 27 August he will be available in Lucerne during LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer, in the so-called *Street Studios* and also in workshops in the KKL Luzern. LUCERNE FESTIVAL moreover is planning special workshops with groups, with associations such as local choruses and Carnival music bands, and with students of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ACADEMY. Tod Machover has in addition developed the software *Hyperscore* especially for school students, allowing them to create original musical impressions of Lucerne by using lines and colors that are then translated into traditional music notation.

Tod Machover, who will take the role of the composer-in-residence of LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer 2015, is considered one of the most significant and innovative composers of his generation. For 30 years he has been demonstrating an extraordinary stylistic richness in his music, which has contributed to extending the definition of music itself and its effect on society. Machover is known for his innovative operas, including the « robotic » *Death and the Powers* which was finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize.



Since 2012, Machover has worked on a series of “city symphonies” similar to that in Lucerne for Toronto, Edinburgh and Perth (Australia). He was born in 1953 in New York, and studied at the Juilliard School with Elliott Carter; he worked at Pierre Boulez’s IRCAM in Paris as composer-in-residence and then as its first Director of Musical Research.

Machover is the Muriel R. Cooper Professor of Music and Media at the MIT Media Lab (Boston) and director of the Opera of the Future Group there. He is known for inventing new technologies for musical performance and creation, and is the creator of Hyperinstruments, which have extended the power of musical expression for virtuosi from Yo-Yo Ma to Prince, as well as for the general public through revolutionary videogames such as “Guitar Hero” and “Rock Band” which grew out of his Lab. Machover also develops musical systems and technologies for promoting physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The entire “Symphony for Lucerne” project will be filmed by LUCERNE FESTIVAL, and at the end a documentary will be shown in connection with the world premiere of the work on 5 September. You can already watch a film trailer for the project with Tod Machover on Youtube and on LUCERNE FESTIVAL’s Facebook fanpage:

Tod Machover in Lucerne at LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer 2014

23 August: 11.00 – 13.00 | Street Studio with Tod Machover, Europaplatz

24 August: 16.00 – 18.00 | Street Studio with Tod Machover, Europaplatz

25 August: 19.30 | Workshop, KKL Luzern, Clubräume

To participate in the workshop, please pre-register at info@sinfoniefuerluzern.ch

26 August: 16.00 – 18.00 | Street Studio with Tod Machover, Europaplatz

27 August: 19.30 | Workshop, KKL Luzern, Clubräume

To participate in the workshop, please pre-register at info@sinfoniefuerluzern.ch

Contacts for Press and Public Relations

Nina Steinhart, Head | n.steinhart@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 43

Katharina Schillen | k.schillen@lucernefestival.ch | t +41 (0)41 226 44 59

www.lucernefestival.ch

www.sinfoniefuurluzern.ch