



PRESS RELEASE

2nd edition of the Brugg Festival from 1 to 7 September 2024

Ticket sales now: Rarely performed Haydn opera staged open-air in historic centre

Swiss initiator and musician Sebastian Bohren aims at approachable classical music and new discoveries

Brugg/Switzerland, 5 August 2024. – With eleven concerts in seven days the Artistic Director of the Brugg Festival, Sebastian Bohren, will bring outstanding classical music to the Swiss town of Brugg near Zurich at the beginning of September. The Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra will perform Joseph Haydn's dramma giocoso "Lo speziale" completed by Jan Willem de Vriend open-air. Illustrious names will perform as soloists, also at lunchtime intermezzos, and in the innovative Campus Hall in town. Over 700 schoolchildren and their teachers will attend the "Echo" educational project.

The Basel Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Izabelé Jankauskaitė, will conclude the second edition of the Brugg Festival. This pilot project in the acoustically optimized FHNW Campus Hall will be preceded by exceptional concerts featuring star cellist Anastasia Kobekina, violinist Josef Špaček and clarinetist Reto Bieri, among others.

"This year's festival programme is again designed for encounters with old acquaintances and new discoveries," said Artistic Director Sebastian Bohren, "both with regard to the chosen oeuvres and the musicians." The programming of the Brugg Festival has a "slight focus on Swiss composers", he said.

Festival highlights, and the "Echo" educational project

Accordionist Viviane Chassot received the Opus Klassik as Instrumentalist of the Year in 2022, while Yekwon Sunwoo won the prestigious Van Cliburn Piano Competition in 2015. The clarinetist Moritz Roelcke and the French-speaking Swiss wind ensemble Astera have entitled their programme "The New World". Tomáš Jamník will delight on the cello, Matthew Lipman on the viola and Uxía Martínez Botana on the double bass.

"The Brugg Festival offering classical music, the concerts are also intended to attract new audiences, and young people in particular," said Artistic Director Sebastian Bohren. Over 700 children and their teachers will attend his educational school outreach project named "Echo", an inherent part of the Brugg Festival.

Reaching new target groups in unusual places

The "Fifty-five minutes" lunchtime intermezzos are aimed at groups that prefer to attend concerts at daytime. The comic opera "Lo speziale" by Joseph Haydn, being performed open-air twice in the Hofstatt in the old part of town, is also very approachable. "This total work of art comprised of singing, orchestra, and stage design, and embedded amidst historical buildings, should also inspire individuals who have never dared to try classical music and opera before," said Sebastian Bohren. He has been able to recruit the Swiss Eva Buchmann to direct the production. Eva Buchmann, who has successfully staged the work completed by Jan Willem de Vriend internationally, has the four singers perform in an old Fiat 500.

In addition to the Hofstatt and the Protestant Stadtkirche of Brugg, the festival concerts will also take place at the Cinema Odeon and the Salzhaus Brugg. "We want to explore the town of Brugg with classical sounds", said Sebastian Bohren. The Artistic Director of the Brugg Festival will also perform as a soloist on the violin himself at the closing concert in the Campus Hall, with the "wonderfully dreamy violin concerto by Othmar Schoeck", he said.

Concert tickets: <https://strettaconcerts.com/>

Website Brugg Festival (in German): <https://bruggfestival.ch/>

PR interview with Sebastian Bohren (in German): <https://bruggfestival.ch/das-brugg-festival/>

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