Dear Applicants

Live instruction on the concert stage – this is just as informative for young conductors as it is for young instrumentalists. Yet rarely are the former afforded an opportunity to stand in front of a large symphony orchestra to try out their métier in a practical, real-life setting. And so it becomes all the more important to be able to have such offerings as Bernard Haitink’s master class, which since 2011 has been taking place annually as part of LUCERNE FESTIVAL at Easter and generated a tremendous response: over the past several years, some 170 candidates have applied each time, hoping to be able to profit from the immense knowledge and great experience of the Dutch maestro. From these applicants, a total of 20 to 25 young conductors will be selected for the master class. An even smaller group of active participants will then be singled out from among them on the first day of the course to study and rehearse four central works of the orchestral repertoire under the guidance of Haitink: symphonic milestones by Mozart, Brahms, and Mahler, as well as Debussy’s Prélude à l’Après-midi d’un Faune. In this way Haitink allows these young conductors to plenty of room to explore their own approaches, giving them important advice on baton technique and body language, but also on questions of interpretation – all the while continually posing these to himself as he steps back on the podium, for indeed not everything can be said in words alone. The Festival Strings Lucerne are meanwhile on hand to work with the participants, and their commitment and flexibility have made an essential contribution to the success of past master classes.

Through his Easter Festival master classes, Haitink is continuing a longstanding tradition in Lucerne. As early as 1945, Ernest Ansermet was offering training to talented young musicians, and this initiative was later undertaken by Herbert von Karajan and Rafael Kubelík as well. At the same time, Haitink has established a tradition of his own with his master class, which in 2014 will be taking place for the fourth year in a row. We are deeply grateful to Bernard Haitink for his commitment to education. He has enjoyed a close relationship with the City of Lucerne and LUCERNE FESTIVAL for many years, and we hope that all those who participate will have an unforgettable stay on the shores of Lake Lucerne.
Dates | Thursday, 10 – Sunday, 13 April 2014  
Pre-selection: Thursday, 10 April 2014  
Master Class: Friday, 11 – Sunday, 13 April 2014

Program
W.A. Mozart | Symphony No. 39 in E flat major, K. 543  
Brahms | Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90  
Mahler | Symphony No. 4 in G major  
Debussy | Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune

The master class in conducting led by Bernard Haitink will focus on four orchestral compositions. Six to seven highly talented young conductors will study and rehearse these works with Bernard Haitink and the Festival Strings Lucerne. The master class is open to anyone who wishes to audit as well (the Pre-selection on Thursday, 10 April 2014 is not open to listeners).

Bernard Haitink | Artistic Director of the Master Class  
Festival Strings Lucerne and Guests

Profile of Participants
– Advanced conducting students and professional conductors  
– Age limit: no more than 32 years old

Documents to be submitted
– Application form (online)  
– Link to a recording of a performance or rehearsal (two works)  
– Curriculum vitae and photo (max. 2 pages)  
– Repertoire list

Application deadline: 3 January 2014 (postmark date)  
Please submit your application online here.

Selection of Participants | The course management will select 20 to 25 final candidates (pre-selection) upon receipt of the registration documents. These pre-selection results will be announced by the middle of January 2014. A final selection in which these pre-selected musicians play with orchestra under the direction of Bernard Haitink on the first day of the master class (10 April 2014; program: Mozart, Symphony No. 39 in E flat major, K. 543) will then be made to determine the six to seven active participants in the master class. There is no right of legal appeal. No correspondence will be conducted regarding the decisions.

Course fee | Course fee for active participants is CHF 450; course fee for auditors is CHF 30 for each day.

Course language | The Master Class will be given in English, and partially in German as well.

Travel | Travel costs must be covered by each participant.

Accommodation | Accommodation costs must be covered by each participant. LUCERNE FESTIVAL can assist in finding accommodation.

Meals | All meals must be paid by each participant.

Scores | Each participant must procure his/her own scores.