The summer of 2003 saw the birth of the **LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA**, which was founded by the Italian conductor Claudio Abbado and by the Festival’s Executive and Artistic Director Michael Haefliger. In creating the LFO, they established a link with the legendary elite orchestra for which Arturo Toscanini assembled acclaimed virtuosos of his time to create a magnificent ensemble, introducing it in a “Concert de Gala” in 1938, the year of the Festival’s founding. Abbado served as Music Director of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA up until his death in January 2014. Riccardo Chailly, who was appointed as his successor, inaugurated his tenure as the new Music Director in the summer of 2016 with two performances of Mahler’s Eighth Symphony, thus concluding the Mahler cycle that Abbado had been unable to finish. The LFO comprises internationally acclaimed principals, chamber musicians, and music teachers, as well as members of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Filarmonica della Scala. For the 2017 Summer Festival, Chailly will prepare three different programs with them, presenting composers such as Richard Strauss, Felix Mendelssohn, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Igor Stravinsky, who were either not performed or seldom heard in previous LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA concerts. Many of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA’s performances over the last decade have been broadcast on television and then released on DVD; these have garnered such awards as the Diapason d’Or, the *BBC Music Magazine* Award, and the International Classical Music Award. The LUCERNE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA has gone on tour to Rome, Vienna, Madrid, and Paris; to Baden-Baden, Hamburg, London, and New York; and to Ferrara, Moscow, Tokyo, and Beijing. In the fall of 2015 they undertook a major European tour led by Andris Nelsons.

1.807 Zeichen / 14. Oktober 2016