

HSBC  Private Bank presents

# MENUHIN FESTIVAL GSTAAD

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53<sup>rd</sup> edition – from 17 July to 5 September 2009

## 2009: new attendance record

**September 2009** \* \* \* The 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad enjoyed its last weekend brimming with musical emotions and a closing concert filled with fireworks: an evening of brilliant symphonic music with pianist Arcadi Volodos (Brahms' *Second Piano Concerto*) and the most promising conductor from the new generation, Andris Nelsons (Tchaikovsky's *Fifth Symphony*). This year's festival, under the motto "Perfection", saw an overall increase in attendance of some 3% in comparison to the previous year, making it possible for the event to pass the symbolic mark of 20,000 visitors. "This continuity is the best sign of good health for an undertaking, much more so than sudden (and ephemeral) peaks", commented administrative director Stefan Matti. It is a sign that intendant Christoph Müller's artistic recipe corresponds perfectly to audience tastes. "The attendance at the concerts in the churches was particularly spectacular", he was happy to say. "The concerts with the three grand ladies on this year's programme (Hélène Grimaud, Sol Gabetta and Cecilia Bartoli) were all sold out and listeners came in large numbers regardless of the musical style: Baroque, Classic, Romantic and even crossover. The "risky" programmes of ensembles such as Los Romeros and the King's Singers were crowned by successes surpassing all expectations."

### A Living and Vibrant Event

The first edition of the Gstaad Vocal Academy led by Silvana Bazzoni Bartoli was one of the other highlights of this year's festival, as well as the "Play Along" orchestra weeks for amateurs: the first course for young musicians immediately attracted 65 attendees. "The presence of these young students lent the event an even more vibrant character", remarked Stefan Matti. The only small negative tone: a slight decline in attendance at the concerts in the Festival Tent, no doubt due to the demanding character of certain programmes. "This did not hinder us from experiencing marvelous evenings such as the "Best of" programme with the phenomenal Edita Gruberova (making her debut in Gstaad!) or the two concerts with the LSO and Valery Gergiev", as the intendant eagerly added.

### Highlights 2010

Christoph Müller already has planned a number of wonderful surprises for audiences in 2010. These include: the residence of pianist Andrés Schiff, the return of violinist Leonidas Kavakos together with the LSO and Valery Gergiev, an evening featuring Martha Argerich and Mikhail Pletnev with the Russian National Orchestra, Bobby McFerrin in a one-man-show, and a brilliantly colorful final concert with gypsy violinist Roby Lakatos. And in the wake of the great success of the first edition of the Gstaad Vocal Academy it will once again take place under the co-direction of Cecilia Bartoli and her mother Silvana Bazzoni Bartoli.

## The SPONSORS of the MENUHIN FESTIVAL GSTAAD

The Menuhin Festival Gstaad would like to thank its sponsors and partners for their invaluable support. The HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA, Girard-Perregaux and the Grand Hotel Bellevue are proud of the synergies that they have established within the framework of the festival. Here the latest news from them:

### • HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA – Principal Sponsor

**In the spirit of Lord Menuhin** \* \* \* The principal sponsor of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad since 2003, HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA recently has renewed its partnership for an additional five years. A loyal collaborator in the festival's development, the institution is pleased to contribute to and profit from the festival's international stature and the attractive programmes created by Christoph Müller, a unique gathering of global stars and promising young artists. In 2009 the bank also will pay special tribute to Lord Menuhin, who passed away ten years ago. It is proud to be associated with values that the great artist championed: mastery, creativity, openness of mind and spirit. Establishing partnerships and developing networks are the bank's daily business with its clients and contacts. Firmly situated in Switzerland with a staff of more than 2000 from 59 different nationalities, HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA profits from an established collaboration with the HSBC global network located in more than 85 countries; this link makes it possible for the bank to offer its clients services around the world. [www.theworldsprivatebank.com](http://www.theworldsprivatebank.com)

### • Girard-Perregaux – Sponsor

**High-end watchmaking together with the Festival** \* \* \* Festival partner for the third consecutive year, Girard-Perregaux, the Swiss Manufacture of Haute Horlogerie, accents the ties between its domain and classical music. The similarities are numerous: their masterpieces are marked by mastery and passion, both artistic and technical. Their pasts are rich in history and occasionally meet, even in delicate detail: the illustrious Antonio Stradivari, for example, used a watchmaker's lathe to turn the pegs and button for his instruments. In celebration of its association with the festival, Girard-Perregaux suggests the rediscovery of exceptional skills. In 2007 and 2008 guests were captivated by the spectacle that awaited them at the company's lounge at the Festival Tent. Girard-Perregaux even created a special-edition timepiece for the event: the ww.tc Menuhin Festival Gstaad. This timepiece makes possible the simultaneous reading of 24 different time zones; it is on display at the Brand's boutique at the station's Promenade. Intensely involved in the musical encounter, Girard-Perregaux is developing a new programme for the guests at the Festival in 2009, with the same goal as before: extending the charm of the moment, now and forever... [www.girard-perregaux.com](http://www.girard-perregaux.com)

### • Grand Hotel Bellevue Gstaad – Sponsor

**Luxury trendsetter** \* \* \* The Grand Hotel Bellevue has extended its collaboration with the Menuhin Festival Gstaad for an additional three years and will be present once again in the festival tent at this year's event with a VIP lounge and catering. The elegant five-star establishment has brought a rejuvenated, youthful atmosphere to the glamour of the legendary ski resort. It represents a unique meeting point for stars and cool design, Alp panoramas and Zen atmosphere, culture and nature. Guests at the Grand Hotel Bellevue will not find ostentatious brilliance but clear forms and quiet elegance. Star chef Richard Mebkhout directs his crew in the kitchens of the "Coelho" Brasserie and the gourmet restaurant "Prado", conjuring up dishes true to the motto of this year's festival – "perfection". Another highlight is the Bellevue SPA, some 2,500 square meters of wellness in Asian style. The pool and sauna realm features herbal steam baths, Finnish saunas with outdoor zones, as well as ice and salt grottos for pure relaxation. New treatments at the Bellevue SPA include the "HUNA MANA seashell massage" and the "Bellevue gold massage". The Grand Hotel Bellevue is offering a special Menuhin arrangement in conjunction with this year's festival, a wonderful combination of superb concerts with the amenities of an elegant five-star establishment, the perfect luxury experience.  
[www.bellevue-gstaad.com](http://www.bellevue-gstaad.com)

## INFORMATION & PRESS CONTACTS

- **Complete programme with photographs:** [www.menuhinfestivalgstaad.com](http://www.menuhinfestivalgstaad.com)

- **The Gazette 2009**

may be ordered at no charge from the Offices of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad or online at [www.menuhinfestivalgstaad.com](http://www.menuhinfestivalgstaad.com)

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