

HSBC  Private Bank presents

MENUHIN FESTIVAL GSTAAD

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The Programme of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad 2010 is now available

«Between Heaven and Earth»

January 2010 * * * Following “Perfection” in the summer of 2009, the Menuhin Festival Gstaad will navigate “Between Heaven and Earth” from 16 July to 5 September in 2010. Since one should never change a winning team, the main ingredients of the event are to be found anew: international stars and upcoming artists; great classical works and new concert experiences. The festival also will usher in two new highlights: the first concerts with the Gstaad Festival Orchestra (launched in London last October) under the direction of Maxim Vengerov and the first edition of the Gstaad Piano Academy led by András Schiff, “Artist in Residence” in 2010. The management also is pleased to be able to rely on the invaluable, loyal support of the HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA as the principal sponsor for the eighth consecutive year as well as to welcome Swiss watch manufacturer Armin Strom from Bern among the sponsors next to the Grand Hotel Bellevue Gstaad.

Foreword by the Menuhin Festival Gstaad's intendant

The 2010 Programme by Christoph Müller



A concert can transport us to another world, the associations and emotional content of the music can touch our souls and carry us away from everyday life to a world of fantasies and imagination. Music can hypnotize us, putting us, so to say, somewhere between “Heaven and Earth” and stimulating us to reflect on the finite nature of our existence. Composers have been moved for centuries by the dialectic between belief in eternity and the joie de vivre of earthly life, between earthly reason and metaphysical uncertainty.

András Schiff's chamber music concerts in residence are dedicated to birthday boy Robert Schumann (whose 200th birthday is being celebrated in 2010) with three unique concert programmes in rarely performed constellations. Schumann, who with increasing age withdrew into a personal world that remained hidden even to those closest to him, can be encountered from a less well-known side with rarely performed works such as the “Pilgrimage of the Rose” or the “Spanish Song Book”.

The musical beauty and fascination of **Brahms' “German Requiem”** performed by outstanding soloists and interpreters on the opening weekend will be a first highlight.

Works such as **Richard Strauss' “Metamorphoses”**, **Haydn's “Seven Last Words”**, **Schumann's three string quartets**, **Mahler's fifth symphony** (with the famous Adagietto that was the basis for the film “Death in Venice”), the programme centering around the **“English Nightingale”** with recorder virtuoso Maurice Steger, or Daniel Hope's **“Air”** all touch upon the festival's theme in various manners.

And humorous, entertaining programmes such as Blechschaden's "**Moonlight Serenade**" or the brilliant comedy duo "**Igudesman und Joe**", who were overwhelmed with applause at the opening of the festival in 2008, also levitate somewhere between Heaven and Earth with their art.

An important new element to the festival will be featured with the premiere of the "**Gstaad Festival Orchestra**" on 13 August 2010. Swiss composer Daniel Schnyder wrote a **symphonic meditation** for the debut of our own symphony orchestra and the prelude to the first European tour with concerts at five other European music festivals; Rimsky-Korsakov's **Easter Overture** and Mussorgsky's famous "**Pictures at an Exhibition**" are also on the programme.

The third "**Tout le monde du violon**" (after 2006 and 2008) will take place again this year and build up to the great finale in the festival tent which will unite leading gypsy violinists (including **Roby Lakatos & Band**) as well as dancers and singers from traditional gypsy families from Eastern Europe in a sparkling celebration. Yehudi Menuhin, who loved gypsy music and culture above all, would have felt most at home in the tumult of the closing concert in 2010, and we thus dedicate the whole "Tout le monde du violon" event in the coming year to Lord Menuhin's sense of experimentation and his curiosity and love for everything new and unheard.

Our "**Gstaad Academy**" will be honored for the second time with the presence of Prof. Silvana Bazzoni-Bartoli and Cecilia Bartoli. I am very pleased that pianist András Schiff will offer a five-day master class which also will be open to the public. The "Gstaad Vocal Academy" will thus be joined in 2010 by the "Gstaad Piano Academy".

For amateur musicians young and old we will expand our "Play-Along" Orchestra programme after the overwhelming success of the two Play-Along-Orchestras in 2009, now under the new name of "**Play @ Menuhin Festival Gstaad**". Interested amateur musicians will find all the necessary information at the festival office or on our homepage.

In addition to world famous, popular artists such as Cecilia Bartoli, Valery Gergiev, Martha Argerich, Bobby McFerrin (with a solo concert!), András Schiff, Daniel Hope, Arcadi Volodos and many others who are already familiar faces in Gstaad, we also are pleased to greet new, fascinating artists of international repute for the first time in Gstaad.

The **Jeune-Etoile-Konzerte** (Young Stars Concerts) in 2009 earned widespread recognition and were greeted by great enthusiasm. For example, young American violinist **Chad Hoopes**, prize winner of the Menuhin Competition, was entrancing and can be heard in an evening concert in 2010.

We will be going new ways with regard to communication about our concerts in 2010. All of the artists performing in the festival tent or in the church in Saanen, for example, will be featured in their own "**Artist Window**" on our homepage where you thus can become better acquainted with them.

We are all looking forward to the coming exciting and challenging months. Above all we are motivated by our great anticipation for the more than 40 beautiful evening concerts in the coming summer, concerts marked by our unique and magical mixture of nature, music and luxury as to be found nowhere else in the world.



Christoph Müller, Intendant

Visit our new Internet site

www.menuhinfestivalgstaad.com

THE MENUHIN FESTIVAL GSTAAD THANKS ITS SPONSORS

The Menuhin Festival Gstaad would like to thank its sponsors and partners for their invaluable support. Here the latest news from the HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA, Armin Strom and the Grand Hotel Bellevue:

• HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA – Principal Sponsor

A symphony of connections * * * For seven years HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA has supported the Menuhin Festival Gstaad as its principal sponsor, accompanying the festival's development and contributing to the realization of founder Lord Yehudi Menuhin's musical philosophy. Celebrated musician, teacher and humanist, Lord Menuhin strove to abolish the borders between different musical styles in order to offer innovative programmes on the highest level with international stature but intimate in form. Swiss and international at the same time, innovative and traditional, the festival's image coincides perfectly with that of HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA. HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA is part of HSBC Private Bank, the international private banking division of the HSBC Group. HSBC Private Bank provides private banking and trustee services for high net worth individuals and their families through 96 locations in some 43 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa, employing over 6,700 professionals worldwide. www.hsbcprivatebank.com

• Armin Strom – Sponsor

Exclusive Watches from Bern at the Menuhin Festival * * * The Menuhin Festival in Gstaad is a Bernese event with international character. And watch manufacturer Armin Strom is home in the Canton of Bern and well known around the world for exclusive timepieces of the highest standards. A watch from Armin Strom unites authentic tradition with an innovative style of watchmaking in unique works of art. The partnership with the Menuhin Festival Gstaad in 2010 will serve as a platform for the creative work of the watch manufacturer. Let yourself be dazzled by Armin Strom in the festival lounge, immerse yourself in his world shaped by passion. Take advantage of this rare opportunity and observe the watchmaker at work. The precision and craftsmanship of the individual elements and the concinnity of the clockworks fascinate and tangible symbol for the manufacturer's authenticity. The skeletonizing of watch movements, for example, is deeply rooted in the brand's origins. You can discover all of this and more in the festival tent this year. The team from Armin Strom will be on location at the festival and is looking forward to presenting its newest creations. The collection includes handcrafted skeleton watches that fascinate anew with every examination. One can quickly forget that one is checking the time. As a fully independent manufacturer we are particularly proud to exhibit our first individual watch movement for festival visitors. The magic of a conductor inspiring his orchestra to new heights with an almost palpable force has great similarity to a master watchmaker inspiring and motivating his watchmakers to such a degree that truly remarkable creations arise. We are looking forward to enjoying enchanting concerts together with you this summer! www.arminstrom.ch

• Grand Hotel Bellevue Gstaad – Sponsor

The pinnacle of luxury * * * The Grand Hotel Bellevue in Gstaad has given a touch of youth to the glamour of the legendary ski resort. At the hotel, a sponsor of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad, grandeur comes face to face with cool design, alpine panoramas with Zen ambience and culture with nature. Culinary delights in a class of their own await our guests. The emphasis in the Restaurant Coelho is on traditional brasserie fare, haute cuisine is celebrated at our gourmet temple, the Restaurant Prado. If you're keen to know more about the treasures in our wine cellar, you can take part in a wine tasting event in our romantic Carnotzet. Guests meet in the Bellevue Bar for preprandial drinks and make themselves comfortable in black Le Corbusier armchairs to enjoy some piano music as they wait for a delicious dinner. At the Asian-style Bellevue Spa covering more than 2,500 sq.m., you'll find an aromatic steam bath, a Finnish sauna with outdoor area and a salt and ice grotto for total relaxation. Let your creative thoughts flow in an inspiring environment. The rooms, all flooded with light, are the perfect venue for small, exclusive groups of senior executives of national or international corporations. And can anything be more delightful than taking your breaks on the terrace and enjoying the view of Gstaad's mountains? By now you should at least have guessed the meaning of the hotel's logo: "return". Those who experience genuine hospitality under this sign will return time and again, so the saying goes. www.bellevue-gstaad.com

INFORMATION & PRESS CONTACTS

- Complete programme with photographs: www.menuhinfestivalgstaad.com

- General Information:

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