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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VERBIER FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES MAINSTAGE PROGRAMME FOR 2022: OVER 60 CONCERTS FROM JULY 15 TO 31

VISITING ARTISTS INCLUDE MARTHA ARGERICH, AVI AVITAL, EVGENY KISSIN, MILOŠ, JAKUB JÓZEF ORLIŃSKI, ANDRÁS SCHIFF, FREDDIE DE TOMMASO, DANIIL TRIFONOV, YUJA WANG AND MORE

- The Verbier Festival is leading up to its 30th anniversary (2023) with an outstanding musical programme featuring Music Directors Valery Gergiev and Gábor Takács-Nagy, and classical music's most sought after soloists and conductors.
- The Verbier Festival Academy continues to thrive across its programmes for soloists, ensembles, orchestras, conductors and singers, and with the introduction of a new audio recording programme. Masterclasses are once again fully open and free to the public with the presentation of a ticket. A highlight will be the performance of Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* by the Academy's Atelier Lyrique singers and the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra.
- An expanded UNLTD programme (previously known as Unlimited) is set to be unveiled in the spring with both accessible and innovative activities and events, including Secret Concerts, musical hikes, talks, kids workshops, the annual Verbier Festival Philanthropy Forum, and much more.
- The Verbier Festival brand continues to make its mark throughout the year with exciting new projects including a collaboration with Deutsche Grammophon and a new festival in Ibiza – Ibiza Clasico.

December 9, 2021—VEVEY (Switzerland) – Approaching its 30th anniversary in 2023 and affirming its position in the topflight of the world's classical music festivals, the Verbier Festival announces its mainstage programme for 2022. As ever, in a distinctive and exhilarating spirit of community and exchange, the Festival brings together established and emerging musicians of the highest calibre—the major names of today and the major names of the future.

Running from July 15 to 31, the Festival offers more than 60 Mainstage events, ranging from large-scale orchestral concerts and opera in concert form to solo recitals, chamber concerts— assembling new teams of renowned soloists and chamber specialists in its 'Rencontres Inédites' series—and even a dramatised reading. The events will take place in the Festival's

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regular venues, the 1,700-seat Salle des Combins the more intimate Église de Verbier and the Hameau Cultural Centre.

The Verbier Festival's plans for its 2022 **Academy**, one of the musical world's most admired training initiatives for exceptional rising talent, and for **UNLTD**, its wide-reaching complementary event programme, will be announced in Spring 2022.

VERBIER FESTIVAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Verbier Festival and Deutsche Grammophon announce the launch of the Verbier Festival Label, an initial three-year joint venture to champion and distribute live recordings from the past 29 years of the Festival's rich history. The new label marks a special moment for a partnership that has enjoyed many successful collaborations over the years, including audio releases of special archive recordings, a collaboration for the Virtual Verbier Festival in 2020, and the '25 Years of Excellence' anniversary release.

The label captures the essence of the Verbier Festival, presenting truly unique, high-quality recordings that are quintessential of the Festival experience at the heights of the Swiss Alpine resort. Early recordings of classical music stars making their debuts, legends joining forces with their contemporaries for the first time and experimenting with new repertoire, sparkling orchestral interpretations as they've never been heard before – this partnership invites audiences to access and enjoy exclusive moments of the Verbier Festival.

The label will focus on digital albums with the first release available in Spring 2022. Select performances will be available to watch online through the DG platform, with others available as physical product.

Continuing its work beyond the main festival, the Verbier Festival brand has joined forces with Six Senses Ibiza to present Ibiza Clasico, a new six-day classical music festival of live concerts and events taking place in April 2022.

Joining prestigious Principal Sponsors Bank Julius Baer and Neva Foundation, the Verbier Festival is proud to announce SICPA as a new Principal Sponsor for the 29th edition. SICPA is a trusted global provider of security inks as well as secured identification, traceability and authentication solutions. The Festival welcomed SICPA as a Major Sponsor in 2021, as well as a collaborator in safety and security efforts, and is grateful for the renewed support for the future.

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COVID HEALTH MEASURES

The Festival continues to closely monitor public health situation and will always operate following State and Canton health orders to safeguard its artists, patrons, festival-goers and staff. Updated safety measures for 2022 will be communicated closer to the launch of the Festival.

2022 VERBIER FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Valery Gergiev**, Music Director of the Verbier Festival Orchestra, opens the Festival with the Verbier Festival Orchestra and conducts two further concerts with soloists **Mikhail Pletnev**, who performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, and **Denis Matsuev** in a performance of Rodion Shchedrin's Piano Concerto No. 2, marking the composer's 90th birthday.
- Music Director of the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, **Gábor Takács-Nagy**, will conduct Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the orchestra. This will be the final installment of the cycle, which will be released in collaboration with Deutsche Grammophon in conjunction with the Festival's 30th edition. This significant 'time capsule' of recordings allows audiences to join in celebrating such powerful musical masterpieces.
- Three operas will be performed in concert, with **Takács-Nagy** leading the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra for Mozart's *Don Giovanni* featuring soloists **Stanislas de Barbeyrac**, **Magdalena Kožená**, **Peter Mattei**, **Julien Van Mellaerts**, **Olga Peretyatko**, **Mikhail Petrenko**, **Fatma Saïd** and **Alexander Stavrakakis**. **Gianandrea Noseda** conducts a concert performance of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* with **Ying Fang**, **Brian Jagde**, **Angela Meade**, **Ekaterina Semenchuk** and **Ludovic Tézier** with the **Obserwalliser Vokalensemble** and **Verbier Festival Orchestra**. Singers from the Verbier Festival Academy Atelier Lyrique give a concert performance of Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* with the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra, conducted by **Stanislav Kochanovsky**.
- **Yuja Wang** returns to Verbier to perform a solo recital and a duo recital with **Leonidas Kavakos**. She and Kavakos are then joined by **Gautier Capuçon** to create a high-powered piano trio.
- **Klaus Mäkelä** will replace **Michael Tilson Thomas**, who was originally scheduled to appear at the Festival in 2022, to conduct the Verbier Festival Orchestra with Yuja Wang as soloist. Mäkelä will also lead the Verbier Festival Orchestra in a concert with **Daniil Trifonov**.
- In addition to giving three recitals (in partnership with **Miklós Perényi** and **Evgeny Kissin**) **András Schiff** conducts Mozart's Requiem with soloists **Magdalena Kožená**, **Stanislas de Barbeyrac**, **Alexandros Stavrakakis** and the **Münchener Bach-Chor**.

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- **Martha Argerich** makes two concerto appearances at the Festival: Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 and one of her signature works, Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3.
- Other leading pianists giving recitals include **Sergei Babayan, Yefim Bronfman, Mao Fujita, Kirill Gerstein, Evgeny Kissin, Stephen Kovacevich, Daniil Trifonov** and **Nobuyuki Tsujii**.
- Amongst the world-class singers performing at the Festival this year is **Freddie De Tommaso**, making his Festival debut with pianist **Jonathan Papp**, and Polish countertenor **Jakub Józef Orliński** with pianist **Michał Biel**.
- Several young rising stars are performing at the Festival in 2022, including Russian pianist **Alexander Malofeev**, and the Festival's 2018 'Prix Yves Paternot' winner, violinist **Timothy Chooi**, in addition to debut performances by 12-year-old pianist **Tsotne Zedginidze**, young male soprano **Bruno de Sá** and Latvian pianist **Daumants Liepiņš** who won the Vendome Prize in 2019.
- **MILOŠ** and **Avi Avital** perform the world premiere of a new Sonata for Guitar and Mandolin by the French composer and multi-instrumentalist Mathias Duplessy.
- **Ian Bostridge** and pianist/composer **Brad Mehldau** perform Mehldau's new song cycle *The Folly of Desire*, a work which was written for Bostridge in 2020.
- The Verbier Festival continues to bring together teams of renowned soloists and chamber specialists for its **Rencontres Inédites** series, including performances by **Marc Bouchkov, Sergei Dogadin, Blythe Teh Engstroem, Mao Fujita, Zlatomir Fung, Daniel Lozakovich, Mischa Maisky, Klaus Mäkelä, Mikhail Petrenko, Mikhaïl Pletnev** and **Daniil Trifonov**.
- In another unexpected and stimulating pairing, **Evgeny Kissin** and **Thomas Hampson** act as narrators in Kathrine Kressmann Taylor's *Address Unknown*, a short story written as a series of letters between a Jewish art dealer living in San Francisco and his business partner who returns to Germany in 1932.

This 29th edition of the Verbier Festival is made possible with the support of many philanthropic, corporate and public funders, notably Madame Aline Foriel-Destezet, The Friends of the Verbier Festival, the Festival's major donors, including its Chairman's Circle, the Commune de Val de Bagnes, Loterie Romande, Canton du Valais, and its loyal Principal Sponsors Bank Julius Baer, Neva Foundation and SICPA.

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The **Verbier Festival** is a classical music festival that encourages sharing between great musicians and young aspiring artists from around the world. It is committed to excellence in music performance and education through its highly respected artistic programme, Academy and community engagement programmes. The next edition of the Verbier Festival, with Principal Sponsorship of Bank Julius Baer, Neva Foundation and SICPA, will place July 15 to 31, 2022 in Verbier (Switzerland).

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PROGRAMME

Explore the programme [here](#).

PHOTOS

Official photographs may be downloaded [VF PHOTOS PRESSE](#).
