

Corporate Responsibility

Roche Commissions

Overview

Roche Commissions is a unique and pioneering collaboration between Roche, Lucerne Festival and the Lucerne Festival Academy. Since 2003, Roche has worked with these partners to award regular commissions for new orchestral works to some of the world's most talented contemporary composers. Roche Commissions provides a natural continuation of our long-term commitment to supporting arts and culture, and stimulating innovation.

How does it work?

Roche regularly commissions a new work from an outstanding contemporary composer which is premiered two years later at the Lucerne Festival in Summer, performed by the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra. When identifying and selecting composers, we work closely with our prestigious partners, Lucerne Festival and the Lucerne Festival Academy. Rather than commissioning works that will cater to mainstream fashions or focusing on current popular appeal, *Roche Commissions* aims to enable musical works which venture beyond the conventional and which provide a source of intellectual stimulation and challenge. The interaction between Roche scientists, our composers and their music, and the active role we play in the partnership differentiates *Roche Commissions* from more conventional philanthropic initiatives. The roots of this ground-breaking initiative stem from a partnership between Roche, the Cleveland Orchestra and Carnegie Hall which is now continued by the unique collaboration between Roche, Lucerne Festival and Lucerne Festival Academy.

A further expression of the partnership between Roche and Lucerne Festival is the launch of *Roche Young Commissions*. Every two years, alternating with the ongoing *Roche Commissions* biannual cycle, two young composers will be commissioned to compose orchestral works. Working closely with two young conductors and under the guidance of Pierre Boulez, the *Roche Young Commissions* awardees will have two years to complete their compositions, which will premiere at Lucerne Festival in Summer, commencing in 2015.

Results

The outstanding works of music produced by Roche's commissioned composers since 2003 are an enduring expression and manifestation of our commitment to innovation, not only in science but also in the arts. *Roche Commissions* offers artists in contemporary music the challenge and opportunity to forge new frontiers in their special field, just as we encourage our scientists to pursue unconventional solutions in healthcare. This not only benefits music lovers



Key facts and figures

- Seven composers have been awarded commissions through this programme, representing six countries
- The first six commissions were premiered by the Cleveland Orchestra at Lucerne Festival in Summer and at Carnegie Hall, New York City
- The initial composition by Sir Harrison Birtwistle, "Night's Black Bird", was released as part of a CD by NMC Recordings in 2011
- Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Radu Lupu, Christiane Oelze and John Mark Ainsley have been among the world class musicians and singers performing the compositions at the premiere concerts
- Some Roche Commissions compositions have subsequently been performed by such orchestras as Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini, London Sinfonietta, Koninklijk Concertgebouworkest and Junge Deutsche Philharmonie

“The Roche Commissions initiative, an innovative commitment to cultural patronage, takes us into new, unknown territory. It provides the composer with the opportunity, initiative and inspiration for a new work. This work is prepared by the performing artists and is ultimately premiered in the concert hall. At that point, the concert audience need to be prepared to explore this terra incognita.”

Michael Haeffliger, Executive and Artistic Director of Lucerne Festival

globally but also offers Roche scientists an opportunity to experience a multi-disciplinary approach to their pioneering spirit.

By working together, Roche and Lucerne Festival also contribute to creating something new and innovative which would not be possible by working in isolation. The partnership yields a commissioned work of orchestral music that will, thereafter, be played several times at important music centres by the most inspired interpreters.

Background

Roche has been an active patron of contemporary art and cultural projects since the company was founded in 1896. This is one of Roche's hallmarks, setting us apart from other companies. We understand the close affinities between creativity in the arts and in a research-based company like ours, and we are convinced of the value that contemporary culture brings to our enterprise, enriching both our day-to-day work, and contributing to our culture of innovation.

Lucerne Festival in Summer

Lucerne Festival, which held its first concert series in 1938, has grown year on year and now attracts over 120,000 visitors each year. Music lovers from around the world have the opportunity to experience extraordinary music created through the collaboration of world-class orchestras, conductors, and performers. The philosophy of the Festival is centred on integrating the music of contemporary composers into the programming and on celebrating the creative energy of young artists, as well as on artistic exchange.

The Lucerne Festival Academy

The Lucerne Festival Academy was founded in 2004. Since then, some 130 highly gifted young musicians from all corners of the globe have gathered together every summer to study contemporary scores and modern masterpieces. Working together in daily rehearsals, workshops, and lessons, the participants receive the essential skills for performing contemporary music.

Roche Commissions composers since 2003:

Composer	Composition	World premiere in Lucerne
Sir Harrison Birtwistle	Night's Black Bird	August 2004
Chen Yi	Si Ji (Four Seasons)	August 2005
Hanspeter Kyburz	touché	September 2006
George Benjamin	“DUET” for piano and orchestra	August 2008
Toshio Hosokawa	Woven Dreams	August 2010
Matthias Pintscher	Chute d'Étoiles	August 2012
Unsuk Chin	To be announced	2014

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