



verbierfestival

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VERBIER'S MUSIC PLAYS ON: LAUNCH OF VIRTUAL VERBIER FESTIVAL

June 9, 2020 – VERBIER (Switzerland) – The Verbier Festival invites music-lovers around the world to enjoy its annual festival in a new way this summer. The classical music festival has teamed up with long-time partners [medici.tv](#) – the world's leading classical music channel – and Radio Télévision Suisse (Espace 2 and the RTSCulture platform) to present the **Virtual Verbier Festival** from July 16 to August 12. Viewers and listeners can access the Festival, discover programme listings and subscribe for updates via the 'VF at Home' platform at [verbierfestival.com](#). The Virtual Verbier Festival is all free to access for the period of the Festival, and select material at [medici.tv](#) will be available via free replay until 31 October.

“It's been a very challenging few months for artists in general,” said Verbier Festival Founder & Director, Martin T:son Engstroem. “That aspect of not having concerts to look forward to, not to have an income; it has been very, very tough. I see this Virtual Festival as a tribute to our artists. Many of them are regulars who come back year after year and I want to pay homage to this close friendship. The Festival wouldn't be anything without them.”

From July 16 through August 2, [medici.tv](#)—partner of the Festival since 2007— will stream video interviews, masterclasses and re-broadcasts of favourite concerts and rarities that haven't been seen or heard since they first appeared on the Festival's stages. Exclusive new performances, recorded especially for the Virtual Verbier Festival by some of the Festival's biggest stars, will start off most evenings.

The majority of these 18 evenings will focus on a single artist or group of artists who has become part of the Verbier Festival's DNA. Other evenings showcase the Festival's Academy, through a celebration of its orchestras and success stories. Programming is scheduled from 7 pm to midnight CET nightly.

Meanwhile, from July 17 to August 12, [Espace 2](#) will broadcast the 'Best of the Verbier Festival' on its *L'Été des Festivals* programme. Partner of the Verbier Festival since 1994, Espace 2 has a goldmine of Verbier Festival performances and interviews in its archives. Its broadcasts of concerts will be complemented by newly produced features and interviews Monday to Friday from 8 pm to 10:30 pm CET and Saturdays from 8 pm to midnight CET. Espace 2 programming can be accessed from around the world via the dedicated Virtual Verbier Festival page at

verbierfestival.com. Swiss listeners can also hear Espace 2 on local radio stations across French-speaking Switzerland.

The Verbier Festival was one of Switzerland's first major music festivals to cancel its 'live' activities for summer 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Festival has concentrated its efforts on celebrating and supporting its family of artists and on connecting this family with the music-loving public. The Virtual Verbier Festival is the latest of these initiatives. It is made possible thanks to an extraordinary gift from Madame Aline Foriel-Destezet. The Festival also thanks the Verbier Festival Chairman's Circle, The Friends of the Verbier Festival, and its Principal Sponsors Bank Julius Baer and the Neva Foundation for their continued support.

CONTACTS

VERBIER FESTIVAL

Ségolène Roulet-Solignac

+41 (0)27 775 24 40

presse@verbierfestival.com

PREMIER (UK/US/CA)

Rebecca Johns

+44 (0)20 72 927 336 / +44 (0)77 15 205 196

rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com

THE PUBLICISTS (FR/BEL/LUX)

Thierry Messonnier

+33 (0)6 84 67 84 30

thierry@thepublicists.fr

Simon Millward

+44 (0)20 72 927 334 / +44 (0)79 90 507 310

simon.millward@premiercomms.com

Laura Fantoni

+33 (0)6 20 37 15 37

laura.fantoni@labelfrancaise.com

PRESS PHOTOS

Photographs taken by the official photographers of the Verbier Festival may be downloaded from the Festival's [press photo database](#).

Please contact presse@verbierfestival.com for access credentials.

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 live edition of the Verbier Festival, with Principal Sponsorship of Bank Julius Baer and Neva Foundation, will place 16 July to 1 August 2021 in Verbier (Switzerland).

VIDEO

MEDICI. TV PROGRAMME

July 16 to August 2, 7 pm to midnight CET

Programme updates will be released regularly via verbierfestival.com.

16.07	Valery Gergiev
17.07	Evgeny Kissin
18.07	Violinists of Verbier
19.07	Martha Argerich
20.07	Thomas Quasthoff
21.07	Joshua Bell
22.07	Verbier Festival Orchestra
23.07	András Schiff & Quatuor Ébène
24.07	Daniil Trifonov
25.07	Gautier & Renaud Capuçon
26.07	Singers of Verbier
27.07	Mikhail Pletnev
28.07	Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
29.07	Leonidas Kavakos
30.07	Verbier Generation: Festival Discoveries
31.07	Pianists of Verbier
01.08	Mischa Maisky
02.08	Yuja Wang

AUDIO

RTS / ESPACE 2: ÉTÉ DES FESTIVALS 2020

July 17 to August 12

Mondays to Fridays 8 pm to 10:30 pm CET; Saturdays 8 pm to midnight CET

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|-------|---|
| 17.07 | 16.07.2010 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Charles Dutoit, conductor
Yuja Wang, piano |
| 18.07 | 21.07.2017 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Charles Dutoit, conductor
R. STRAUSS <i>Salomé, opera in one act Op. 54 (concert version)</i> |
| 20.07 | 28.07.2008 VERBIER, ÉGLISE
Nikolaï Lugansky, piano |
| 21.07 | 06.08.2017 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Mikhail Pletnev, conductor
Janine Jansen, violin |
| 22.07 | 29.07.2014 VERBIER, ÉGLISE
Leonidas Kavakos, violin
Daniil Trifonov, piano |

- 23.07 17.07.2010 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor
Ilya Gringolts, conductor
David Guerrier, trumpet
Martha Argerich, piano
- 24.07 27.07.2014 VERBIER, ÉGLISE
Clemens Hagen, cello
Kirill Gerstein, piano
- 25.07 29.07.2016 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Jesús López Cobos, conductor
VERDI *Falstaff*
- 27.07 03.08.2014 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Iván Fischer, conductor
Mikhaïl Pletnev, piano
- 28.07 21.07.2010 VERBIER, ÉGLISE
Lawrence Power, viola
Martin Fröst, clarinet
Julien Quentin, piano
- 29.07 25.07.2011 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
Daniel Harding, conductor
Joshua Bell, violin
Renaud Capuçon, violin & viola

- 30.07 24.07.2010 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Evgeny Kissin, piano
- 01.08 26.07.2014 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
Marc Minkowski, conductor
BEETHOVEN *Fidelio*
- 03.08 27.07.2016 VERBIER, ÉGLISE
Daniel Lozakovich, violin
Frank Dupree, piano
- 04.08 27.07.2011 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Yuri Temirkanov, conductor
Yuja Wang, piano
- 05.08 04.08. 2018 VERBIER, ÉGLISE
Quatuor Ébène
- 06.08 18.07.2019 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Valery Gergiev, conductor
Kristóf Baráti, violin
- 07.08 26.07.2019 VERBIER, ÉGLISE
Sergei Redkin, piano
- 08.08 02.08.2014 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
Gábor Takács-Nagy, conductor
MOZART *Il re pastore*

- 10.08 24.07.2017 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Daniel Harding, conductor
Joshua Weilerstein, conductor
Sergei Babayan, piano
- 11.08 30.07.2013 VERBIER, ÉGLISE
Gautier Capuçon, cello
Yuja Wang, piano
- 12.08 02.08.2019 VERBIER, SALLE DES COMBINS
Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra
Leonidas Kavakos, violin & conductor
Antoine Tamestit, viola