

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VF KiDS UNVEILS MAGICAL SUMMER LINE-UP AT 2025 VERBIER FESTIVAL

June 19, 2025 – VERBIER (Switzerland) – With the school year coming to a close, VF KiDS announces a rich line-up of summer activities for children and families at the 2025 Verbier Festival. From musical tales and open-air adventures to lantern parades and storytelling workshops, VF Kids transforms Verbier into a playground of music and imagination from **July 20 to August 1**.

What is VF KiDS?

VF Kids is the Verbier Festival through a child's eyes: curious, creative, and full of discovery. As the younger sibling of UNLTD—the Festival's creative lab for bold encounters, fresh ideas, and a spirit of adventure—VF Kids brings the same playful energy to its programming for young people. It offers imaginative and engaging experiences in music and storytelling designed especially for children and families—and invites audiences of tomorrow to take centre stage.

Programme Highlights

Marthe Keller brings musical storytelling to life

One of Switzerland's most acclaimed actors, Marthe Keller, narrates *Le Roi qui n'aimait pas la musique* and *Le Roi qui aimait Joséphine*—two witty and poetic stories by Mathieu Laine, set to music by Karol Beffa. Performed live by Beffa on piano, Edoardo Grieco and Francesco Massimino (Trio Concept), and clarinettist Mebrakh Haughton-Johnson, this special double bill kicks off the VF KiDS activities this summer.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason presents his first children's book on stage

Beloved cellist and Verbier regular Sheku Kanneh-Mason performs *Little Sheku and the Animal Orchestra*, a musical reading of his new children's book. Accompanied by live cello, this heartwarming tale of finding your voice will charm kids and parents alike.

Storytellers take the stage

Camp Storytellers—a summer extension of the VF Kids school-year programme in French-speaking Swiss classrooms—offers a week-long creative residency in theatre, music, and visual

arts. The week culminates in a festive parade and a storytelling version of Maurice Ravel and Colette's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, featuring performances and artwork by the children alongside actor René-Claude Emery, multimedia artist Marc Philippin, and string quartet, Quatuor Agate.

A weekend of family fun at altitude

From July 25 to 27, VF KiDS presents a jam-packed weekend for young festivalgoers and their families. The Storytellers Camp culminates in a festive parade and a one-of-a-kind staging of *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* on July 26. The next day, Academy musicians hop into gondola cabins to create the world's smallest concert halls for *Les Gondoliers*—playful concerts in movement between Verbier and Les Ruinettes ski-lift stations. Families can also enjoy *Balades musicales* and Buskers performances designed especially for kids. The weekend wraps up at La Chaux with *BimBamBoum*: a joyfully offbeat UNLTD x VF Kids concert featuring the wild, theatrical duo Bab et les Chats, who flip the rock concert on its head with noise, nonsense, and yes—meowing. The show opens with a fanfare-style performance by brass players from the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra.

Little Ears, Big Discoveries

From July 26 to August 1, VF KiDS offers a week of interactive workshops for toddlers to pre-teens. Through rhythm games, sensory play, instrument-making, and behind-the-scenes experiences, children explore sound and creativity in hands-on ways. Programmes include *Le Petit Labo Musical* (for toddlers to age 4), *Les Petits Explorateurs* (who try out real instruments and learn about the orchestra), and *Les Petits Mélomanes* (who get a peek into Festival rehearsals).

Celebrating Swiss National Day with magic and music

On August 1, VF KiDS' Nuit Coucou lights up Verbier. Compagnie Zappar's glowing *Peuple Lumière*—spirits of Alpine animals—appear at twilight for a music-and-movement performance, then lead a lantern-and-percussion procession through the village. Children create their lanterns and traditional instruments earlier in the week in *Atelier Coucou* and *Les Petits Explorateurs Suisse* workshops.

About the Verbier Festival

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 rich artistic programme, Academy and orchestra programmes, and cultural development initiatives. These include UNLTD and VF KiDS, which

offer bold and imaginative encounters with music for all ages. The 32nd edition of the Festival takes place from July 16 to August 3, 2025, made possible with the support of the Commune of Val de Bagnes, Loterie Romande, and the Canton of Valais, its Principal Sponsor REYL Intesa Sanpaolo, as well as numerous sponsors, foundations, and individual donors, including members of The Friends of the Verbier Festival.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Full VF KiDS programme details and tickets are available at: vfkids.ch

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