

## Successful Anniversary Summer at the Menuhin Festival Gstaad

**More than 100 concerts and events, almost 27'000 visitors over 52 festival days: Bach's *Mass in B minor*, performed by Arcangelo under the direction of Jonathan Cohen, brought the 70th edition of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad to a spectacular close on Saturday, September 5, 2026. Held under the theme 'Family Matters,' Artistic Director Daniel Hope's first season brought together more than 1,000 artists from around the world to the Saanenland region.**

The festival summer featured numerous highlights, including performances by Khatia Buniatishvili, Hayato Sumino, Steven Isserlis, Pinchas Zukerman, Sir András Schiff, Isata Kanneh-Mason, Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider and Behzod Abduraimov, as well as leading orchestras such as the Budapest Festival Orchestra conducted by Iván Fischer, the Royal Danish Orchestra under Marie Jacquot and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Vasily Petrenko.

David Garrett and the Del Gesù Club provided a particular highlight: at the sold-out charity concert *Masters of Sound* in support of the Menuhin Festival String Academy, 26 of the world's most renowned Guarneri del Gesù and Stradivari violins were played at Saanen Church.

The Gstaad Festival Orchestra shaped the season with several major productions under the direction of Chief Conductor Jaap van Zweden, Alexander Shelley and Marco Armiliato. Highlights included Puccini's *La bohème*, with Benjamin Bernheim and Carolina López Moreno in the leading roles. Following its sold-out performance in the Festival Tent, the production traditionally travelled to the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden.

### **New Formats and an Idea That Remains in Tune with the Times**

The new formats also proved highly popular, including the Fiddlefest with Daniel Hope and musicians from a wide range of musical backgrounds. With The Summit, the festival launched a forum at the Grand Chalet Balthus for the first time, providing a platform for dialogue on the future of culture and society. The President's Hikes brought music and the landscape together, while the new film series at the Ciné Theatre Gstaad offered new perspectives on Yehudi Menuhin and his life.

Daniel Hope on the 70th edition of the festival: "For me, this first season as Artistic Director was about far more than simply making a new beginning. Seventy years ago, Yehudi Menuhin created a place here where the great artists of his time came together, while at the same time giving young talents the opportunity to learn, grow and find their own path. With Family Matters, I wanted to renew this connection between generations. I was particularly moved by how many people approached me personally this summer and spoke of a new energy, a new openness and a new spirit at the festival. That was perhaps the most wonderful compliment we could have received for this first summer together. For me, this summer has shown that Yehudi Menuhin's founding idea remains alive when we have the courage to keep reimagining it."

### **Connecting Generations**

The theme "Family Matters" placed musical families and friendships, as well as the passing on of knowledge, at the heart of the festival. Supporting the next generation remained a key priority: at the String, Piano, Conducting and Vocal Academies, young musicians worked with internationally renowned artists and educators. The Discovery programme complemented the festival programme with family concerts, workshops and educational activities for children, young people, families and people with disabilities.

### **A Community of Loyal Supporters**

Richard Müller, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad, thanked the audience and partners and emphasized the importance of their commitment: "For us, the 70th anniversary was not only an occasion to look back, but above all an opportunity to open open the next chapter of this festival. The overwhelmingly positive response from the audience encourages us to continue on the path we have taken. Our thanks go to the artists, our audience, our staff and volunteers, as well as to all the sponsors, patrons, foundations and partners who make this festival possible."

### **Looking Ahead to 2027: "Passion"**

The 71st edition of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad will be held under the theme "Passion." Artists already confirmed include Anne-Sophie Mutter, Ray Chen, Igor Levit, Daniil Trifonov, Avi Avital and Alice Sara Ott, who will perform with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under Petr Popelka. The programme will place a special focus on works by Beethoven to mark the 200th anniversary of his death, with his music woven throughout the programme. Among other highlights, the Gstaad Festival Orchestra will perform Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* to conclude the tent concerts. Further highlights include Verdi's *La traviata* under Marco Armiliato, featuring Lisette Oropesa and Luca Salsi, as well as the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia under Daniel Harding performing Mahler's *Sixth Symphony*. The successful new formats will also return: Fiddlefest, The Summit, the President's Hikes and the film series at the Ciné Theatre Gstaad will all be back in 2027.

The full festival programme will be published in December. Advance ticket sales will open on December 15, 2026.

### **About the Menuhin Festival Gstaad**

The Menuhin Festival Gstaad was founded by Yehudi Menuhin in 1957 and is now considered one of Europe's leading classical music festivals. Every summer, the festival brings together internationally renowned artists, distinguished orchestras and promising young talents at churches and concert venues throughout the Saanenland and Pays-d'Enhaut regions. With more than 75 concerts each year, the festival combines musical excellence, the promotion of young talent and cultural dialogue. Since 2026, the festival has been under the artistic direction of violinist Daniel Hope. The 71st edition will take place from July 16 to September 4, 2027, under the theme "Passion."

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