

GSTAAD MENUHIN FESTIVAL & ACADEMY

Press Release 2025

Saanen, December 2024

69. Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy | 18 July – 6 September 2025

MIGRATION – Cycle «CHANGE III»

The 69th Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy is dedicated to the topic of “Migration”, marking the final chapter of our three-year “Change” cycle (2023 – 2025). Against the backdrop of climate change, world wars and their lasting impacts, migration has become one of the most pressing global challenges, both politically and socially. The 2025 programme examines this multifaceted topic from four distinct angles. **“Origin”**: Music that draws its strength and identity from deep ties to homeland and heritage. **“Escape to Exile”**: Works that capture the experience of flight and the search for refuge. **“Inner Emigration”**: Compositions created under totalitarian regimes or by those who, whether by necessity or choice, turned inward to find personal freedom and resilience. **“Nostalgia”**: The expression of longing for a lost or forsaken homeland, reflecting the pain of separation and the enduring pull of memory.

Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy 2025 stands for ...

- Two remarkable concerts under the banner **“Music for the Planet”**, crafted by violinist and composer Patricia Kopatchinskaja. With a blend of stirring music, poignant texts and evocative visuals, these concerts delve into the complex dimensions of migration and the profound shifts shaping our world. The first concert presents a captivating dialogue between the music of Dmitri Shostakovich, the “quiet rebel”, and the poetic, incisive words of Swiss author Franz Hohler. With her second programme, **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** takes the audience on a journey exploring “Roots in Exile”: The evocative music of Polish composer Andrzej Panufnik merges with the compelling photography of Marco Borggreve, creating a heartfelt homage to the experience of living far from home.
- **The biggest stars of today: Elīna Garanča and Jonathan Tetelman**, under the baton of Gianandrea Noseda, will perform the spectacular Verdi *Requiem* with an ensemble from the Zurich Opera House. Another vocal highlight: **Marina Viotti** in a pure Bizet evening, accompanied by Marc Minkowski and his Musiciens du Louvre. **Cecilia Bartoli** will shine in a joint recital with David Fray. We will also welcome outstanding pianists, including **Daniil Trifonov**, **Víkingur Ólafsson** performing Beethoven’s final three sonatas, **Sir Andrés Schiff** – both in a recital and as Professor of the Gstaad Piano Academy, **Gabriela Montero** with her own “Latin Concerto”, and **Khatia Buniatishvili** in a solo recital in the Gstaad Festival Tent. Violinist and global star **Daniel Hope** will give the closing concert of the 2025 Festival – a symbolic “passing of the torch”.
- **A sublime opera in concert**: After *I puritani* in 2021, another masterpiece by Bellini, *Norma*, is on the programme. **Sonya Yoncheva** will take on the title role, accompanied by the Gstaad Festival Orchestra under the direction of Domingo Hindoyan.
- **Fazil Say takes center stage** as the Artist in Residence 2025, showcasing his remarkable versatility: From an intimate solo recital to a duo performance with flutist Aslihan And against the breathtaking

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backdrop of the Egli summit, and as part of a quintet, his programme is as diverse as it is captivating. Highlights include Schubert's beloved "Trout Quintet" and the world premiere of his newly composed "Immigrant Trio" in Saanen.

- **A festive opening with a grand choral concert:** The 69th edition of Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy starts off with Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt* – performed twice by the Parisian ensemble Les Arts Florissants under the baton of their legendary founder William Christie, who celebrates his 80th birthday on December 19, 2024!
- The vibrant concerts of the "**Menuhin's Heritage Artists**", who are gaining increasing recognition on the international stage year after year: **Nemanja Radulović** and his ensemble Double Sens bring timeless favourites like Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Bach's violin concertos to the breathtaking Egli summit, before the night shifts gears with a DJ set and electronic beats. Star violinist **Bomsori Kim** makes a much-anticipated return, joining Kit Armstrong for a sonata evening and teaming up with Fazıl Say for a chamber music highlight. Meanwhile, trumpeter Lucienne Renaudin Vary infuses Rougemont with a touch of jazz brilliance.
- Exquisite **recitals and chamber music** in the region's magnificent churches: Soprano Regula Mühlemann presents her heartfelt programme celebrating "Songs of Home". Pianist Alexandra Dovgan enchants with Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20*, accompanied by the Basel Chamber Orchestra, while Yulianna Avdeeva captivates with the emotional depth of Chopin and Shostakovich preludes. Clarinetist Andreas Ottensamer will deliver musical highlights, and the Hagen Quartet joins forces with pianist Mao Fujita for a stirring rendition of Brahms' *Piano Quintet*.
- **Olivier Berggruen Prize 2025:** Pianist Yunchan Lim will be honoured with the prestigious award following his concert on July 29 at the Rougemont Church. In this performance, Yunchan Lim will be sharing the stage with his teacher Minsoo Sohn.
- Majestic symphonic evenings at the Gstaad Festival Tent: Dvořák's *Symphony No. 9* ("From the New World") performed by the Gstaad Festival Orchestra and **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla**, Mendelssohn's dazzling *Concerto for Two Pianos in E Major* with the brothers Lucas and Arthur Jussen, conducted by **Jaap van Zweden**, Shostakovich's profound *Cello Concerto No. 2* featuring the exceptional **Sol Gabetta**, and Rachmaninov's sweeping *Symphony No. 2*, interpreted by **Paavo Järvi** and the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich.
- **A magical night of film and music:** *The Chorus* ("Les Choristes") by Christophe Barratier. The unforgettable film experience is brought to life with Bruno Coulais' beautiful score, performed live by the City Light Orchestra, accompanied by the Boys Choir Lucerne.
- In 2025, the **Gstaad Festival Orchestra** continues its partnership with Jaap van Zweden, the incoming Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. Van Zweden will perform at the Festival in Gstaad, embark on a European tour with the GFO and teach at the Gstaad Conducting Academy. The masterclass will be led jointly by Jaap van Zweden, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla and Johannes Schlaefli. For further details, visit: gstaadfestivalorchestra.com.

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There's even more ...

- **Four enchanting evenings on the Eggli summit**, all under the theme “Mountain Spirit”, featuring performances by Fazıl Say, Nemanja Radulović, **The King's Singers** and soprano Beatrice Villiger, who will captivate the audience with her yodeling at the unique “Flying Lunch” event.
- **The enchanting world of early music**: LE CONSORT with Justin Taylor and **Théotime Langlois de Swarte**, as well as countertenor **Jakub Józef Orliński**, accompanied by the renowned ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro.
- **A stage for young talents**: Eight “Matinées des Jeunes Étoiles” held on Saturdays during the Festival at the Gstaad Chapel (with two of the concerts repeated in the evenings at the Abländschen Church). On September 6, the series will feature the winners of the 2024 Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Music Prize.
- **Unforgettable musical experiences beyond the ordinary**: Mandolin star **Avi Avital** captivates with a Mediterranean programme infused with the energy of tarantellas and Apulian charm, Christina Pluhar and her baroque ensemble **L'Arpeggiata** explore the rich tapestry of Balkan culture and the SIGNUM Saxophone Quartet paints a vivid portrait of the “American Dream”.

Not to be missed ...

- Our **academic programme** focused on orchestral conducting, string instruments, piano, voice and early music. The Gstaad Academy features masterclasses with celebrated instructors like Jaap van Zweden, Ludovic Tézier, Rainer Schmidt, Ettore Causa, Ivan Monighetti, Sir Andrés Schiff and Maurice Steger. The experience is enhanced by public concerts under the evocative title “**L'Heure Bleue**”. Find out more at: gstaadacademy.ch.
- “**Discovery**” offers a diverse programme of exploration for children and families, including playful concert introductions, artist meet-and-greets, backstage tours and tailored interactive concert experiences.
- With our “**Gstaad Digital Festival**” streaming platform, you can experience the Festival's finest moments all year long ... again and again! Plus, look forward to artist interviews, expert talks and exclusive behind-the-scenes content: gstaaddigitalfestival.ch.

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