

Press release

Sion, 14 August 2023

## The curtain will soon rise on the Sion Festival 2023

The curtain will soon rise on the 58th edition of the Sion Festival. From 18 August onwards, some twenty concerts of the highest artistic quality await the audience. Whether in the verdant setting of the Ferme-Asile, in the enchanting sites of Sion's old town or in the sacred spaces of its churches, the public will be able to experience some great moments in the warm, intimate atmosphere of this "small" festival where the world's great musicians meet. Young classical music hopefuls and regional stars also have their place here, as the opening concert under the banner of hope clearly illustrates.

In the first half of the inaugural concert on Friday 18 August, the audience will be able to admire the talent of three young winners of prestigious music prizes; in the second half, they will discover a vast visual and acoustic poem imagined by actor Roland Vouilloz, based on unpublished texts by Olivia Seigne and sumptuous music - including *Blessed Sadness* by Ukrainian composer Victoria Poleva, presented in its European premiere; on violins Pavel Vernikov and Svetlana Makarova, accompanied by the Festival Orchestra.

Starting at 7am on Saturday 19 August, *Musique en fête* will bring the capital of the Valais to life. The public will follow a stimulating and refreshing musical itinerary through Sion's old town, guided by "the music which came in from the cold": nine free concerts will feature Nordic traditions from Scandinavia, Iceland and the Baltic States. This now-famous event is organised in collaboration with the Conservatoire Cantonal, Schubertiade Sion and the Jerzy Semkow Foundation.

On the evening of Saturday 19 August, Lena Belkina will take the audience on a journey through time - from the Baroque to contemporary creation - and space - Venice, Norway, Ukraine - for a virtuoso yet intimate singing tour, rich in contrasting emotions. The young mezzo-soprano will be accompanied by Elena Zhukova (harpsichord/piano) and the Ineo Quartet.

On Sunday 20 August, with the complicity of pianist Ashot Khachatourian and the Festival Orchestra, The Naghash Ensemble will transport the audience into Armenia's rich past and, at the same time, into the 21st century. The Songs of Exile by its director John Hodian - whose version in Sion is a Swiss premiere - give a contemporary vibrancy to the 500-year-old poems by the priest Mkrtych Naghash.

The Sion Festival runs until 3 September. It will welcome stars such as Janine Jansen, Misha Maisky and Sergei Nakariakov, champions in their category such as the Flying Steps breakdance troupe and the Brass Brand 13 Étoiles, and singing in its various forms with the Norwegian Soloists' Choir, Gaëtan and Vincenzo Capezzuto.

### Contacts:

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Fabien Girard, Administrator, 078 648 68 18

### Photos and videos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rJiSsErnCGID9ZvjXjTbHqAOzGOyZ6Za?usp=sharing>

**AGENDA ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

- **18 August, 7.30 pm, Ferme-Asile**  
Opening Concert – *L'Espérance* (Hope)  
[Sion Violon musique | Concert d'ouverture EN - Sion Violon musique \(sion-violon-musique.ch\)](https://sion-violon-musique.ch)
- **19 August, 7 am–7 pm, Sion Old town**  
Musique en fête  
[Sion Violon musique | Musique en fête EN - Sion Violon musique \(sion-violon-musique.ch\)](https://sion-violon-musique.ch)
- **19 August, 7.30 pm, Ferme-Asile**  
Lena Belkina  
[Sion Violon musique | Lena Belkina, Elena Zhukova & Ineo Quartet EN - Sion Violon musique \(sion-violon-musique.ch\)](https://sion-violon-musique.ch)
- **20 August, 5 pm, Ferme-Asile**  
The Naghash Ensemble  
[Sion Violon musique | The Naghash Ensemble EN - Sion Violon musique \(sion-violon-musique.ch\)](https://sion-violon-musique.ch)

#### **Ticketing**

Tel.: 027 323 85 69

Online: [Sion Violon musique | Concerts festival en - Sion Violon musique \(sion-violon-musique.ch\)](https://sion-violon-musique.ch)