**Goosebump moments on 1 August at Casino Bern**

**Swiss National Orchestra unites Swiss musical talent**

**This truly is a one-off symphony: The Swiss National Orchestra will be presenting a sound show of the highest calibre. While the best Swiss football players are currently playing for their country at the European Football Championships, the SNO will unite the most spectacular Swiss musicians on the orchestral scene. At 11:00 a.m. on 1 August, they will perform at Casino Bern as an entity for the very first time and prove what music to the ears really is.**

Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Danish Orchestra and many more: over 70 talented musicians who usually shine in top international orchestras will play their debut concert at Casino Bern on 1 August 2024. The concept behind the newly founded Swiss National Orchestra (SNO) is reminiscent of a national football team: "Many of the most successful Swiss musicians on the orchestral scene play abroad. My vision was to unite these talents with those who are already active in Switzerland in a single ensemble for selected concerts and make classical music of the highest calibre accessible to the public," says artistic director Igor Longato. This was what induced him to found a national team in the orchestral scene.

**Infinite harmony unites classical masterpieces**

The SNO remains true to the traditional symphony orchestra and at the same time strikes a new note. Together with the beauty of music, it aims to convey the values and culture of the country. Excellence, quality, precision and commitment are the core values of its more than 70 members. As music knows no borders, talented musicians from all Swiss cantons come together for a unique vision. As the only orchestra with a national identity, the SNO serves as a platform for Swiss musicians both locally and internationally, keeping Switzerland's rich musical heritage alive.

The programme on 1 August at 11:00 a.m. includes compositions with a connection to Switzerland by Hans Huber, Giacomo Puccini, Piotr Tchaikovsky, Arthur Honegger, Siegfried Wagner, Gaetano Donizetti, Sergei Rachmaninov and Gioachino Rossini.

Two outstanding soloists will take part in the concert: the flutist Sébastian Jacot, who has won the most prestigious international music prizes and is now principal flutist with the Berlin Philharmonic, and the soprano Regula Mühlemann, who after her triumphant debut at Carnegie Hall in New York is now conquering the world's most distinguished stages and will reach us from the Salzburg Festival. The conductor, an American national who recently became Swiss, is Maestro John Axelrod.

**Swissness that can be heard**

The SNO brings Swiss classical music to the international stage – on the Swiss national holiday on 1 August. "The date was deliberately chosen to celebrate together with the Swiss population and bring them a better understanding of classical music," says Igor Longato.

After the first concert, the ensemble is set to delight fans of classical music throughout Europe, Asia and the USA. The SNO serves as a platform for Swiss musicians, both locally and internationally.

Admission is free so that everyone has the opportunity to experience the concert in Bern. Tickets for the concert on 1 August can be ordered via the website [vivat-helvetia.com](http://vivat-helvetia.com).

**About the Swiss National Orchestra:**

The Swiss National Orchestra is a non-profit, tax-exempt, non-religious and non-political association based in Bern. Founded in 2016 by a group of Swiss musicians and administrators, the SNO represents the whole of Switzerland and stands for musical excellence and innovation. The musical celebrities will now perform together for the very first time on 1 August 2024.

More information is available at: [www.sno.ch](http://www.sno.ch)