

KULTURVEREIN KAMMERMUSIKFEST LOCKENHAUS

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Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival: Cellist Nicolas Altstaedt following Gidon Kremer as Artistic Director

Cellist Nicolas Altstaedt, the roughly 30-year-old, multi-award winning, celebrated soloist performing with outstanding orchestras such as the Vienna Philharmonic and internationally acclaimed chamber musician has been appointed as the new Artistic Director, suggested by Gidon Kremer. He is directing the next Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival (5 – 11 July 2012).

“It was important for me not to find a “star“ or a “big name“ as my successor at the Lockenhaus festival. I wanted someone with a remarkable personality who will lead Lockenhaus in a manner different to mine in the past 30 years, someone having the skill to respect and conserve the “spirit“ of this special festival. It makes me happy that the Chamber Music Festival’s executive board has accepted my suggestion. I am convinced that with Nicolas Altstaedt we have found this remarkable personality.

I am happy to give Lockenhaus to a splendid musician and artist who, to my mind, is capable of completing this complicated assignment and who, in doing so, will undoubtedly show great intelligence as well as his personal style. I regard Nicolas as colleague and like-minded fellow with a serious approach to music, but also having “visions“, willing to build his own “castles“ on the fertile grounds of the past Lockenhaus festivals, not shying away from confrontations and still realizing his own ideas. These are the characteristics of a true artist“, Kremer explains his recommendation.

Altstaedt regularly appeared at Lockenhaus in the past years and he is praised to be an outstanding musician with a repertoire covering all styles of classical music, including the modern. His highly acclaimed CD recordings range from Bach to Haydn, Beethoven, Schumann and Tchaikovsky to Webern and Ligeti.

Following the Lockenhaus philosophy of “music-making with friends for friends“, Altstaedt will bring a highly acclaimed group of international soloists to Lockenhaus next year. They will also function as flexible Chamber Orchestra, allowing a kind of music-making only possible at Lockenhaus, far away from the commercial world of music. Just as in the best days of its 30-year-history, Lockenhaus puts the focus on composers who want to reach out to the world through this music festival.

Altstaedt will be a visionary Artistic Director, building on the long tradition of Lockenhaus, leading the Chamber Music Festival to new heights: *“I grew up with Gidon’s music, since my childhood days, I have been admiring him, identifying myself with his language and his artistic being, His every single utterance, even if it was just some sound, had, to my mind, this universal truthfulness, which has always impressed as well as influenced me deeply and lastingly. For several years, I was also among the lucky ones able to participate in his work at Lockenhaus. Replacing him would be as impossible as imitating his art, but continuing his thinking and his spirit, is our obligation. His desire for exploration and his unpretentiousness will always be an inspiration for me. Lockenhaus provides us with an ideal place, enabling us to create an oasis where we serve music, where we can explore and discover like nowhere else. Being as open-minded as a child, accepting the unexpected and at the same time seeking tranquility is essential for us. As he once put it: ‘Lockenhaus matters, not only for its history, but for being an opportunity’, and that’s why it is existentially important now, maybe more than any time before. I modestly and gratefully appreciate Gidon’s and your trust in me and would like to, in the words*

of a friend participating at next year's festival, invite everyone willing 'to feed the fire rather than worshipping ashes' ”, Altstaedt said on his appointment.

The Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival Board of Directors congratulates Nicolas Altstaedt on his appointment as Artistic Director and invites all friends to a great festival in Lockenhaus next summer.

We are looking forward to inviting press representatives to the press conference of the 31st Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival:

PRESS CONFERENCE

22 November 2011 at 11.30 in Vienna, further venue details following.

Nicolas Altstaedt and Gidon Kremer are talking about the continuation of Lockenhaus, answering your questions in person.

Please take note of this date, separate invitation following soon.

Further information about Nicolas Altstaedt as well as photo material to be downloaded in the press section of our website www.kammermusikfest.at.

**31st Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival
5 - 11 July 2012**

www.kammermusikfest.at

Ticket-sales start: 28 November 2011

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