
Classical and film music: Musica Romantica from 8 to 20 August in Saas-Fee

From Brahms to Indiana Jones

Is Indiana Jones a man of the Valais at heart? He would certainly enjoy the huge potential for adventure in the magnificent mountain landscape that surrounds Saas-Fee. This summer you can experience a little adventure of your own: at the Musica Romantica festival from 8 to 20 August, world-famous pianist Eliane Rodrigues and the St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra will carry you off to the world of movies and classical music.

Gone with the Wind is one of the most famous and commercially successful Hollywood movies of all time. Made in 1939 and based on the book of the same name by Margaret Mitchell, the film is a moving love story about Scarlett O'Hara. The theme music was written by Austrian-American composer Maximilian Raoul Steiner (1888-1971). You can hear the piece, along with other world-famous themes, on 20 August during a film music soirée in Saas-Fee.

It is hard to say whether Scarlett, who grew up on a cotton plantation near Atlanta, would have fitted into Saas-Fee; but someone one who would certainly love the Saas Valley's unparalleled mountain landscape is Indiana Jones, alias Harrison Ford. The region would provide a breath-taking backdrop for his adventures. He could hunt for diamonds in the world's largest ice grotto, use brute strength to bring a train to a standstill at the world's highest funicular station, climb the iciest summits with his bare hands and wade across the wildest mountain rivers in only his shorts. And for the grand finale he could yodel across the gaping Fee gorge on the hair-raising flying fox, as so many thousands of tourists do every year in Saas-Fee. So close your eyes and imagine your own adventure to the sound of John Williams' stirring film music.

First-rate programme

This summer the curtain will go up on the Musica Romantica festival for the first time after break of several years. The virtuoso pianist Eliane Rodrigues "is like a colourful dragonfly from far-off southern lands. As her fingers fly over the keys, she makes music that glitters like the Brazilian sun above Rio de Janeiro, the city of her birth." (from her biography). The dragonfly will be accompanied by the St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra.

At 8:30 p.m. each night the parish church in Saas-Fee will play host to some of the world's greatest symphonies. From 8 to 20 August, a different country and its composers will take centre stage – just like during the World Cup. The two German evenings will feature Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann, Felix

Mendelssohn and Ludwig van Beethoven. Austria – a country boasting more success in music than in football – will be represented by star players Franz Schubert and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Georges Bizet, Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel will lead the French offensive, while Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov will bring out Scheherazade for Russia. George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein will put in a stirring performance with two emotionally charged themes from the films "An American in Paris" and "West Side Story". For the film music evening, the St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra and Eliane Rodrigues will offer glittering interpretations of compositions by John Williams (*Star Wars*), Randy Edelman (*The Mummy*) and Ennio Moricone (*Once Upon a Time in the West*). In the unique natural setting of the Saas Valley, surrounded by the highest mountains in the Alps, musical highs come guaranteed. A stunning prospect for film fans and classical music lovers alike.

Programme overview

There will be six symphony concerts and two chamber concerts during the classical music festival.

Sunday, 8 August: Austria (chamber music)

Monday, 9 August: Russia (symphony)

Wednesday, 11 August: Poland (symphony)

Friday, 13 August: Germany (symphony)

Sunday, 15 August: Germany (chamber music)

Monday, 16 August: USA (symphony)

Wednesday, 18 August: France (symphony)

Friday, 20 August: Movie Music (symphony)

All concerts will start at 8:30 p.m. and take place in the Saas-Fee parish church. Concert tickets are available from the Saas-Fee / Saas Valley tourist office by calling +41 (0)27 958 18 58, e-mailing to@saas-fee.com or visiting www.saas-fee.ch.

Depending on the concert and seating category, tickets cost between CHF 24 (recital, chamber concert, category C) and CHF 78 (symphony concert, category A). One-week and two-week passes are also available and cost between CHF 155 and CHF 460, depending on the seating category. Children under 16 receive a 50 percent discount. All those interested are welcome to attend the daily open rehearsals free of charge.

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Text zur freien Veröffentlichung.

Textlänge: 4515 Zeichen mit Leerschlägen (ohne Titel).

Weitere Informationen bei Saas-Fee/Saastal Tourismus, Anja Roy, PR & Events, events@saas-fee.com, +41 27 958 18 58 oder auf www.musicaromantica.ch.