Corporate Responsibility
Roche Continents

Overview
Roche Continents was launched in 2007 in partnership with the Salzburg Festival. Each year Roche offers 100 students the opportunity to come to Salzburg, Austria, during the festival and participate in a week-long programme of activities exploring the creativity and innovation linked to arts, music and science; part of our long-standing commitment at Roche.

How does it work?
During this week 100 students participate in an intense schedule of creative workshops and attend selected contemporary classical concerts featured in the Salzburg Festival programme. The activities are designed to be both challenging and inspiring, and provide an opportunity to explore the common ground of creativity and innovation in arts and science. Roche funds the programme and pays for transport, accommodation, workshops and attendance at the concerts.

Following the week in Salzburg, participants become members of the Roche Continents alumni, a network of outstanding young people from across Europe. The Roche Continents website is reserved for these alumni so that participants can stay in touch with new contacts, communicate in forums and exchange ideas. Alumni also receive a quarterly newsletter.

Roche Continents is open to undergraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral students, aged 20-29, who are undertaking studies in life sciences, chemistry, fine arts or music at European universities.

Background
The synergies between arts and science have been explored throughout history, with many people regarding the two as inseparable sides of the same coin. Leonardo da Vinci is often described as the archetypal artist-scientist. The Salzburg Festival and Roche have established a joint cultural project in the area of contemporary music, a unique event which engages some of the brightest young minds of today. The “Salzburg contemporary” series invites audiences at the Salzburg Festival on a journey of discovery through the compositional and aesthetic universe of prominent 20th and 21st century composers.

Key facts and figures
Since 2007:
• More than 600 young people have taken part in Roche Continents
• Alumni represent around 40 nationalities from throughout Europe and beyond
• Works of world famous and provocative composers such as Giacinto Scelsi, Luigi Nono, Salvatore Sciarrino, Edgard Varèse, Marton Feldmann and Wolfgang Rihm have been performed in Salzburg
This programme reflects one of Roche’s central beliefs that “Innovation is key to our success”, and extends our company’s long tradition of supporting arts and music.

The Salzburg Festival
Salzburg is known worldwide as the birth place of the great composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Salzburg is characterised by baroque architecture and while it is a modern city in every respect, it retains an established sense of tradition.

The Salzburg Festival, which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2010, takes place every summer and features a wide range of performances of opera, drama and concerts. “Opera and drama, and the best of both” was the motto of the Festival’s founding fathers; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Max Reinhardt and Richard Strauss, as was inscribed on their festival plans in 1920: quality as the programmatic guideline. The best conductors and stage directors, the most magnificent orchestras and choruses, the most breathtaking singers, the most captivating actors – that is what the Festival’s audiences rightfully expect.

Roche’s support also makes it possible for reduced price tickets to be available for all performances of the “Salzburg contemporary” concert series.

“What influenced me the most about Roche Continents were the lectures on innovation and creativity; I found them very motivating. I also enjoyed the discussions in small groups where we exchanged many different views.”

Jan Van Dieck, Roche Continents Alumni