Building on the foundations of Roche’s decade-long and continuing collaboration with Lucerne Festival and the Lucerne Festival Academy, Roche Young Commissions will give talented young composers the opportunity and inspiration to write orchestral works to premiere at the prestigious Lucerne Festival. Roche Young Commissions is a continuation of our heritage in innovation in the arts and science and our long-term commitment to supporting young people in realising their potential.

In advance of their premiere performances, extracts of the pieces will be studied and rehearsed with the Lucerne Festival Academy orchestra as part of the young composers’ coaching and development.

What we aim to achieve
Roche Young Commissions aims to mirror the success of the Roche Commissions programme, which has led to outstanding works of contemporary music being created by some of the world’s leading composers. Roche Young Commissions will enable fresh young composers to explore new frontiers in art, just as our research and development experts explore new frontiers in science. We hope that the music composed as a result of Roche Young Commissions will inspire our scientists and people around the world for many years to come.

Key facts and figures
- Lucerne Festival has been running since 1938 and attracts around 120,000 music lovers every year
- Over 100 young composers from 30 countries applied for the first Roche Young Commissions
- In August 2013, Canadian-born Samy Moussa and Polish-born Piotr Peszat were the first two young composers selected to receive the Roche Young Commissions
- The first works by Roche Young Commissions composers will be rehearsed within the Lucerne Festival Academy, and premiered during the Lucerne Festival in Summer 2015
- Conductors Julien Leroy and Mariano Chiappi will work closely with the composers throughout the development of their musical works
Background
Roche has been an active patron of contemporary art and cultural projects since the company was founded in 1896. This is one of Roche's hallmarks, setting us apart from other companies, creating the context for vibrant discourse between science and the arts. We understand the close affinities between creativity in the arts and in a research-based company like ours, and we are convinced of the value that contemporary culture brings to our enterprise, enriching both our day-to-day work, and contributing to our culture of innovation. Furthermore, we recognise the importance of supporting and investing in young people to develop and inspire the innovators and leaders of the future.

Lucerne Festival
Lucerne Festival, which held its first concert series in 1938, has grown year on year and now attracts approximately 120,000 visitors each year. Music lovers from around the world have the opportunity to experience extraordinary music created through the collaboration of world class orchestras, conductors, and performers. The philosophy of the Festival is centred on integrating the music of contemporary composers into the programming and on celebrating the creative energy of young artists, as well as on artistic exchange.

The Lucerne Festival Academy
The Lucerne Festival Academy was founded in 2004 by Pierre Boulez in conjunction with Lucerne Festival’s executive director Michael Haefliger. Since then, some 130 highly gifted young musicians from all corners of the globe have gathered together every summer to study contemporary scores and modern masterpieces. Working together in daily rehearsals, workshops and lessons, the participants receive the essential skills for performing contemporary music.

“Roche Young Commissions is an initiative which recognises the need to support the next generation of musical greats. Through the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience, this unique programme challenges talented young composers to create innovative and inspiring works.”

Michael Haefliger, Executive and Artistic Director Lucerne Festival

For further information please visit:
www.roche.com/music_arts_and_architecture
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