

WELCOME AT SENAR,

DEAR ANNE-SOPHIE MUTTER

*Welcoming Anne-Sophie Mutter, the greatest violinist of the century,
celebrating Anne-Sophie Mutter's 50th anniversary on stage in Lucerne*

(Serge Rachmaninoff Foundation by Andrea Loetscher, Artistic & Executive Director)

Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninoff will welcome Anne-Sophie Mutter through his music, his spirit and the place he created. You are about to witness an encounter that can happen only here at Villa Senar – and perhaps, as Steve Cohen might say, with a little magic.

I am Andrea Loetscher, Intendant and Artistic Director of the Serge Rachmaninoff Foundation. Our aim is clear: to keep Rachmaninoff's legacy alive by bringing the world's most exceptional artists and audiences together, creating new artistic encounters, and carrying the spirit and history of Villa Senar into the future.

Today I finally get to give something back to you and thank you in person, dear Anne-Sophie – for everything you are and everything you do. I've admired you since childhood, and you have been a great role model for me ever since: as a woman, as a musician, as an entrepreneur, in your commitment to society and to people, and especially in your tireless dedication to championing contemporary music. Your discipline and the standard of quality you bring to everything you take on have also set the bar for me. In your own way, you have become part of my own journey. For that, I thank you from my heart.

The Rachmaninoff Foundation is deeply grateful to welcome you with your family and close friends. - Villa Senar was Rachmaninoff's refuge. He created this house and park to recover from demanding tours, enjoy life with family and friends and, every now and then, escape onto Lake Lucerne in his beloved speedboat.

This place unites what is rarely found together: unique artistic excellence and entrepreneurial spirit; Rachmaninoff's living legacy and an intimate place of encounter; deep roots in Switzerland and an international reach extending to the United States, his third home.

Without public subsidies, we can create this program only through artistic ambition, entrepreneurial commitment and the generosity of people who believe in our vision. My heartfelt thanks go to our team, our friends and the worldwide Rachmaninoff community and especially to you, dear Anne-Sophie, for your support as an ambassador and your belief in our work.

Anne-Sophie, you and Sergei Rachmaninoff are separated by generations, yet share something rare: an unmistakable artistic voice and the gift of drawing people completely into your music. You create moments that stay with us long after the final note.

And now I leave the floor to this extraordinary encounter – to Anne-Sophie Mutter in person, to Sergei Rachmaninoff in music and spirit, and to the one and only magician who will bring the impossible a little closer tonight: Steve Cohen.

Welcome to Villa Senar – and let the magic begin.