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## Andrea Amarante is the new Artistic Director of LAC's Music sector

### Presse Release

Lugano, Friday, 8 March 2024

**LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura has appointed Andrea Amarante as the new Artistic Director of its Music Sector. Amarante will take up his position on 15 April and, at the end of the current season, he will succeed Etienne Reymond.**

**The appointment of Andrea Amarante was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors of LAC on 26 February, at the end of a selection process with more than 70 candidates, many from other countries.**

Born in Trieste in 1974 and a graduate in Pianoforte and Entertainment Management, Andrea Amarante has twenty years of experience in the musical field which he acquired in reference institutions, such as Milan's *Teatro alla Scala Foundation*, where he worked with the General Director Maria Di Freda and, in the last eight years, as Artistic Coordinator and Tour Manager of the *Luzerner Sinfonieorchester*, the resident orchestra at Lucerne's KKL.

The arrival at the LAC of the new Artistic Director coincides with the creation of a Sector dedicated to music, as contemplated in the Action Plan of the autonomous corporation for the four-year period 2024-28, which was approved by the City of Lugano last autumn. This step involves the integration of the *LuganoMusica* Foundation through a process similar to the take-over of the Performing Arts Sector from the Culture Division of the City of Lugano. This step also represents the implementation of the project for a multidisciplinary cultural centre under a single director.

Amarante, who will succeed, with a four-year contract, Etienne Reymond at the end of the 2023/24 season, will have the task of designing the cultural centre's future classical music festivals, thereby continuing the work carried on by the Artistic Director of the *LuganoMusica* Foundation, which has successfully transformed the LAC into a music point of reference in Switzerland and abroad, hosting the most important international orchestras, great artists, and young talents, including symphonic and chamber music programmes, recitals, opera productions, and much more. The 2024/25 musical season will be designed by Etienne Reymond, while Andrea Amarante will start work immediately on the preparation of the 2025/26 programme.

"The path of growth and development of performing arts at the LAC has been very positive", said Roberto Badaracco, President of LAC autonomous corporation. "The data on the most recent seasons have demonstrated that we have been able to consolidate our creative efforts and affirm the role of Lugano on the international scene. Our objective is to continue along this path also with music management. Andrea Amarante has an international profile and also knows the Swiss national context well. During the selection process, he immediately expressed his support for our project concerning the development of music at the LAC, with a constructive and multidisciplinary approach that will be fundamental in the overall vision of the cultural centre."

"I am very satisfied with the significant interest that the publication of the job offer generated", echoes Michel Gagnon, LAC's General Director. "It is a sign that the LAC has grown in recent years and has succeeded in making itself known and appreciated by the general public and operators of the local and international sectors. On the strength of his experience and profound musical knowledge, I am sure that Amarante will be able to fit in and collaborate effectively in the current organisational structure of the LAC, based on centres of expertise, which, over the years, have guaranteed quality and supported growth and public involvement."

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"I learned with great joy the news that I had been selected to collaborate in the programming of the LAC as Artistic Director of its new Music Sector", stated Andrea Amarante. "It is my intention to put at the service of the LAC and the City of Lugano the skills that I have developed over the course of my twenty-year career in entertainment management, both by guaranteeing the continuity of the excellent work done so far by Etienne Reymond with *LuganoMusica* and by developing new forms of collaboration with Carmelo Rifici and Michel Gagnon, with whom a true communion of intent was achieved immediately. I know that in Lugano I will find an audience that is extremely knowledgeable and very demanding in the musical field, and I will be happy to put myself at the service of the City by integrating the needs of international production with the requests expressed by the territory. I have already had the opportunity to get to know Diego Fasolis during my experience at *La Scala* and to interact with Barbara Widmer of the *Orchestra della Svizzera italiana* as Artistic Coordinator of the *Luzerner Sinfonieorchester*. I am happy to be able to collaborate with them in fulfilling my new role."

### **Andrea Amarante**

Born in Trieste in 1974, after graduating in piano and studying composition and orchestral conducting, he has dedicated himself to practising the operatic repertoire, working as a preparatory pianist for opera singers and as choirmaster at the *Teatro Lirico Sperimentale* in Spoleto. On the suggestion of its then General Director Claudio Lepore, during that same period he attended one of the first University master's courses offered in Italy in the field of Entertainment Management at the Alma Mater University of Bologna. At the end of his course of studies, he first focused his interest on the organisation of professional training courses for opera singers, associate conductors, and orchestra players, before taking on roles of increasingly greater responsibility at important orchestral institutions both in Italy and in Austria.

After a short period as Coordinator of the Artistic Direction at the *Teatro San Carlo* Foundation in Naples, he was offered the position of Head of Musical Services and Annual programming at the *Teatro alla Scala* Foundation, where he had the opportunity to further develop his own managerial skills under the guidance of its then General Director Maria Di Freda. The exhilarating experiences of the Verdi-Wagner Season and the Milan Expo encouraged him to further broaden the scope of his interests, taking him from the operational management of supporting artistic performers to the creation of complex projects with a wide international scope. In 2016, he accepted the invitation to take up the position of Artistic Coordinator and Tour Manager of the *Luzerner Sinfonieorchester*, the resident orchestra of the KKL Lucerne Concert Hall. As assistant to the Superintendent of the Numa Bischof Ullmann Orchestra, he received the ideal stimuli to further increase his professionalism in the field of musical programming and to come into contact with the greatest artists on the international music scene.

### **Press contacts**

Andrea Amarante will be happy to meet the media starting from 15 April 2024 when he takes over as Artistic Director.

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