

# Newsletter

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## Obituary Ernest Vanderlinden (1918-2010)

On January 10, our honorary president Mr Ernest Vanderlinden passed away, aged 91. He was the last living great-grandson of the famous Halle cellist François Servais (1807-1866) and the grandson of the Antwerp singer Ernest Van Dyck (1861-1923).



Ernest Vanderlinden standing by the side of his great-grandfather at the vernissage of the exhibition held in Halle on 4 May 2007 (photo Felix Merckx)

Diplomacy was his biotope. He graduated in Law and began his career as an attaché at the Belgian embassy in London. Afterwards he held high diplomatic posts for his country in Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Germany. He was awarded various decorations for his diplomatic merits, amongst others "Officier in de Leopoldsorde", "Commandeur

in de Kroonorde", "Comendador de la Orden del Libertador San Martin" (Argentina), "Comendador de la Orden Al Mérito de Chile" (Chile) and "Comendador da Ordem Nacional do Cruzeiro do Sul" (Brazil). And after his retirement he was granted the title of honorary plenipotentiary minister.

Just like his ancestors, Ernest Vanderlinden was very artistic-minded. For one thing, he had taken private classes from Emmanuel Durllet, then piano teacher at the Antwerp Academy of Music. He also used to go to concerts very regularly and supported young artists. As recently as March 2009 he succeeded in organising a private recital with the well-known Liebrecht Van Beckevoort, who was among the laureates (6th) of the Queen Elisabeth Competition for piano two years before.

Ernest Vanderlinden was closely involved in all kinds of activities related to his great-grandfather. As honorary president of the Servais Society he came to Halle and some other places as often as possible to attend Servais activities. In the Halle town hall he received the diploma of the city's honorary citizenship for his great-grandfather in 2007.



Ernest Vanderlinden receives the diploma of the honorary citizenship for his great-grandfather out of the hands of Mr Dirk Pieters, mayor of Halle

The funeral took place in the Antwerp Our Lady's Cathedral. In spite of dreadful weather (it had been snowing all morning and most roads were very slippery) a great number of people were assembled to attend the ceremony. The coffin was preceded by the cortège of the "Kapelmesters O.-L.-Vrouwe Lof ter Kathedraal", whose dean he was. Cello player Roel Dieltiens and organist Peter Van de Velde performed music by Bach and Saint-Saëns, Servais' *Souvenir de Spa* and Chopin's *Nocturne Opus 9, number 2*, arranged by Servais.

## Forthcoming

### Recital on March 7, 2010

On this day an enjoyable recital takes place at the Servais Academy: Romain Dhainaut - third prize winner of the International Cello Competition Servais 2009 - and Pierre Brunello will be performing works by Robert Schumann, Gioacchino Rossini, François Servais and Alfredo Piatti.

#### **Practical information :**

*Sunday March 7, 2010 – Servais Academy  
Kardinaal Cardijnstraat 7, 1500 Halle - 3 p.m.*

*Tickets can be bought at cc 't Vondel, Possozplein 40, Halle.  
Phone : 02.365 94 05 or online : [www.vondel.be](http://www.vondel.be).*

### Servais concert on June 5, 2010

Didier Poskin is a cello teacher at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. His career as a soloist and chamber musician took him all over Europe, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Japan and South Korea. He has made some 20 CD recordings. The "Ensemble Rosamunde" consists of soloists from the "Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie" and has already given a great number of concerts over the past years. In Halle these musicians will execute a selection from their recently released CD with work of Servais (see "In the Showcase"), supplemented with other romantic chamber music.

#### **Practical information :**

*Saturday June 5, 2010 - In the Council Chamber  
of the new Halle townhall - 8 p.m.*

*Tickets can be bought at cc 't Vondel, Possozplein 40, Halle.  
Phone : 02 365 94 05 or online : [www.vondel.be](http://www.vondel.be).*

*Members of the Servais Society can obtain 2 tickets at a special  
subscriber's price via the Servais Society.*

*Questions for further information should be addressed to the  
Servais Society.*



### Esta Conference in Brugge

The "European String Teachers Association" (ESTA) organizes yearly conferences in one of the 26 member states. So the 2007 conference took place in Cremona (Italy), in 2008 in Bern (Switzerland) and in 2009 in Vienna (Austria). And in 2010 Brugge is the venue. Teachers, orchestra musicians and string enthusiasts will assemble to take part in workshops or to attend lectures and concerts. This year the participants will be given the opportunity to get closely acquainted with the Belgian-Flemish string community. World famous issues

such as the Belgian violin school and the work of cello virtuoso François Servais will undoubtedly feature in the conference programme.

#### **Practical information :**

*Friday April 30 to Thursday May 4, 2010*

*Conservatory of Brugge*

*More info : [www.estabelgiumflanders.be](http://www.estabelgiumflanders.be).*

Two conference activities are directly related to Servais :

- On Saturday May 1 at 5 p.m. the orchestra of the Brugge Conservatory will perform Servais' *Souvenir de Saint-Petersbourg* (Opus 15) with the Georgian Ketevan Roinishvili as the soloist.
- On Monday May 3 at 3 p.m. Peter François will give a lecture about Servais' career as a touring cello virtuoso, his share in the development of cello techniques and his contribution to the cello repertoire.

## Looking back

### Servais concert on November 20

On November 20, 2009 the talented cello player Ketevan Roinishvili from Georgia as well as the French Canadian pianist Jean Dubé visited Halle on the occasion of the 8th Servais concert. To many listeners the highlight of the evening was the performance of two Servais compositions. Once again Ketevan proved that she had fully deserved the Servais prize at the International Servais Competition in April last year. In addition, Brahms' and Debussy's sonatas were a feast for the ears. With three parts from "Ma Mère l'Oye" by Maurice Ravel the pianist paid tribute to Cyprien Godebski, Servais' Polish son-in-law and the sculptor of the statue in the Halle Great Market square. The Godebski family were close friends with Ravel. Cyprien Godebski died on November 25, 1909, so precisely 100 years ago. Jean Dubé was also a brilliant performer in two pieces of Franz Liszt.



### The Servaisacademie Centenary

During the 2009-2010 school year the Halle "Servaisacademie" is celebrating its centenary. One of the major festivities was the solemn session on February 5, 2010 with lectures and the performance of compositions of Charles De Koster (1885-1939), founding father and first principal of the academy.

## Join the Society!

In the years to come the Servais Society will go on doing their very best to promote Servais' music by means of concerts, CD recordings and the (re)publication of scores, research into his life and work and the propagation of it through exhibitions, lectures and publications, the further development of a Halle Servais collection, the safeguarding of his heritage in our town, and a lot of other things. More generally, it is our aim to boost the musical and cultural life in Halle and far beyond, focusing on the importance of the cello and the cello repertoire, and to stimulate and support talented youngsters via an International Cello Contest.

Are you also getting enthusiastic while you are reading this? If so, you are cordially invited to become a sustaining member of our society. Your moral and financial support will enable us to realize our objectives.

Advantages :

- As a member you will regularly receive an issue of the Newsletter (preferably via e-mail, but we will be pleased to let you have a printed copy in case you have no access to the internet).
- You are also invited to all the cultural activities of the Servais Society. Members can order two tickets at the subscription rate for every concert that the Society organizes.
- Membership's discount of ca. 10% on publications (books, DVD and compact discs) edited by the Servais Society (if directly bought or ordered through the Society)
- We can provide associated musicians and other persons interested with copies of scores at cost price. You can always call on us to help you with any queries about the composer's life and work.

You can become a member via the web site.

Obviously you can always get in touch with us if you need any further information. We look forward to hearing from you, and very sincerely thank you for your support!

***Cello students who want to join the Society are exempt from paying the obligatory contribution or can pay a modest amount at their discretion.***

## Miscellaneous News

- » On December 5, Seeli Toivio defended her doctoral thesis at the Helsinki Sibelius Academy about the left-hand cello technique from 1700. She is now a 'Doctor in Music'. Our friendly congratulations to Seeli Toivio! (on her research see also our Newsletter of October 2009).
- » On December 11, 2009 our honorary member Viviane Spanoghe executed the creation of Reflections for cello by the Belgian composer Annelies Van Parys at the Antwerp lunch concerts.
- » Anat Meidan from Tel-Aviv provided us with the photo below of a relatively unknown painting representing Misia Sert by Charles Alexandre Picart Le Doux (1881-1959) from 1905. Anat Meidan has had in her possession the painting for a number of years, but only recently did she discover who was the person portrayed, which consequently resulted in close contacts between her and the Servais Society. On July 1, 2009 she gave a lecture about

Misia for a society of art experts in Tel-Aviv. She sent a copy – in Hebrew! – of her lecture for our collection.



Misia Sert by Picart Le Doux, 1905  
(private collection Anat Meidan, Tel-Aviv)

- » On December 14, 2009 some members of the "Association Française du Violoncelle" came to Halle with a view to making a report on Servais and Halle. They were given a guided visit to the Servais rooms in our museum and were also amply informed about the Servais collection.
- » In the first number of the 56th issue of *Fontes artis musicae* there is a favourable review of the book and catalogue that the Servais Society published in 2007. *Fontes artis musicae*, which is the periodical of the "International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres", is distributed all over the world.
- » Three recordings of music pieces by Servais have been added to the Servais web site ([www.servais-vzw.org](http://www.servais-vzw.org)). At this moment the number of sound recording mediums in our discography amounts to fifty-three. The web site is now nearly completely available also in French and German.
- » The bicentenary anniversary of violinist Ole Bull (1810-1880) was celebrated on February 5, 2010. His native city Bergen in Norway have proposed an interesting programme of festivities with concerts, exhibitions and colloquia. There is a magnificent web site featuring the programme as well as a digital exhibition: [www.olebull2010.no](http://www.olebull2010.no). François Servais and Ole Bull were good acquaintances. As early as 1836 they jointly gave concerts in London and also in the subsequent years they kept in touch with each other.

## In the Showcase

### CD 'François Servais Souvenirs' (Fuga Libera)

The concerts with amongst others work by Servais performed by cellist Didier Poskin and the "Ensemble Rosamunde" over the past years have resulted in a first CD exclusively with work of Servais.

The CD opens with Servais' fantasy on Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Sivilla*. Although this is one of Servais' most famous compositions, it is now issued only for the second time on CD and for the first time in a version for cello and quintet. It is equally surprising that *Souvenir de la Suisse* (Opus 10) was recorded for the first time. It is a very cheerful piece of music and has the typical Servais characteristics : peaceful, lyrical passages alternating with dazzlingly virtuoso ones. It is not surprising either that also *Souvenir d'Anvers* is recorded here for the very first time : this composition has come down to us only in a manuscript form and it was not until 2008 that it was prepared to be performed thanks to cellist Nicolas Deletaille and the Servais Society. The CD closes with the 'souvenir' "par excellence" : *Souvenir de Spa*, which is the seventeenth sound recording medium with a recording of this work.

Performed by cellist Didier Poskin, Servais' compositions are in good hands, while the "Rosamunde Ensemble" has produced top-quality work. Finally, Fuga Libera, too, deserves being praised for the fine finishing touch given to the cover and the enclosed booklet, which also shows two pictures from the Halle Servais collection.

CD 'François Servais. Souvenirs', FUG561, Fuga Libera, 2010.

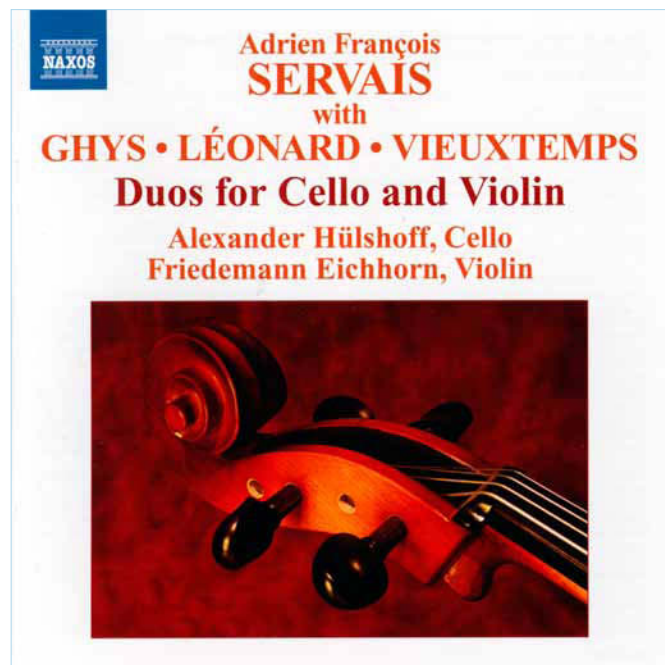


### CD 'Duos for Cello and Violin' (Naxos)

Last January Naxos brought out a CD completely devoted to Servais and his Belgian fellow violinists. The performers are Alexander Hülshoff (cello) and Friedemann Eichhorn (violin). On June 6, 2007 these German musicians did a concert in Halle. They then performed the *Grand Duo sur des motifs de l'opéra Les Huguenots de Meyerbeer* by Servais and Henry Vieuxtemps and the *Variations brillantes et concertantes sur l'air God Save the King* by Servais and Joseph Ghys. The CD contains another four duos which Servais wrote together with the Liège violinist Hubert Léonard. It was the first

time that their third and fourth Grand Duo de Concert were released on a CD. At last Servais' complete works for cello and violin are now available in a CD recording, and in an exemplary performance at that. Unfortunately, this does not hold for the accompanying text in the CD booklet, in which a number of mistakes still occur that have been put right in recent research on that matter.

CD 'Adrien François Servais with Ghys - Léonard - Vieuxtemps. Duos for Cello and Violin', Naxos, 8.572188, 2010.



### Book 'Misia Sert & Coco Chanel'

Misia Sert and Coco Chanel are two ladies from Paris from the first half of the 20th century, who appeal to our imagination. They knew each other very well, as good friends and rivals. A book like 'Misia Sert & Coco Chanel' catches the attention of many a reader. However, we should not have highly scientific expectations ; the book only contains a bibliographic list (apparently no research in the records was done) while footnotes are missing throughout. The popularizing character of this work is also borne out by some other book titles of the same author, such as 'Le régime des pâtes' and 'Petits plats raffinés en vingt minutes chrono'. A large part of the book is a mere paraphrase of Misia's memoirs and, as such, does not offer hardly any new insights. An interesting exception is, at the end of the book, a letter of Estrella Godebska, granddaughter of Misia's half brother, written on February 10, 2009. It is also very remarkable that Coco Chanel comes into play halfway the book for the first time. Furthermore, it is surprising (and regrettable as well) that, in view of the popularizing character of the book, there are no illustrations at all.

Dominique Laty, *Misia Sert & Coco Chanel*. Paris, Odile Jacob, 2009, ISBN 978-2-7381-2291-9. (252 p.).

## Book

### 'Honderd jaar Servaisacademie Halle (1909-2009)'

With a view to the centenary of the Halle Servaisacademie Peter François examined relevant records in Halle and at other places in this country and contacted a great many people who are more or less closely involved in the activities of our academy.

*Peter François, Honderd jaar Servaisacademie Halle (1909-2009). Halle, Stedelijke Servaisacademie, 2010. 978-9-081-51100-1 (56 p.).*

*On sale via the Servais Society*



## Honderd jaar Servaisacademie Halle (1909-2009)

*Peter François*

Photos p. 1-2 : Bram Drabbé, Guido François, Peter François and Renaat Uyttersprot  
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## Concert Calendar

### Servais Society

#### June 5, 2010 - Servaisconcert

Didier Poskin (cello) & Ensemble Rosamunde  
Work by Servais : Souvenir de la Suisse, opus 10 ;  
Fantaisie sur Le Désir, opus 4 ; La Romanesca  
Halle, New Town Hall, Council chamber, 8 p.m.  
Organized by : Servais Society and cc 't Vondel

[www.servais-vzw.org](http://www.servais-vzw.org)

#### November 26, 2010 - Servaisconcert

Seeli Toivio (cello), Linda Hedlund (violin) & Lily-Marlene Puusepp (harp)  
Work by Servais : to be determined  
Halle, New Town Hall, Council chamber, 8 p.m.  
Organized by : Servais Society and cc 't Vondel

[www.servais-vzw.org](http://www.servais-vzw.org)

### Other initiatives

#### March 1, 2010 - "5. Erkelenzer Meisterkonzert"

Rastrelli Cello Quartet  
Work by Servais : Fantaisie sur deux airs russes, opus 13  
Erkelenz, Stadthalle, 8 p.m. [www.vhs-kreis-heinsberg.de](http://www.vhs-kreis-heinsberg.de)

#### March 7, 2010 - Cello

Romain Dhainaut (cello) & Pierre Brunello (piano)  
Work by Servais : Fantaisie sur Le Désir, opus 4  
Halle, Servaiszaal Stedelijke Servaisacademie, 3 p.m.  
Organized by : cc 't Vondel [www.vondel.be](http://www.vondel.be)

#### March 19, 2010

George Kennaway (cello) & Daniel Gordon (piano)  
Work by Servais : Fantaisie sur Le Désir, opus 4 ; Nocturne de Chopin op. 9 nr. 2 (arr. Servais) ; La Romanesca  
Leeds, Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall, School of Music, 1.10 p.m. [www.georgekennaway.co.uk](http://www.georgekennaway.co.uk)

#### March 26, 2010 - 'Dukes' Chapel Concert

Sarah Dupriez (cello) & Vincent Hepp (violin)  
Work by Servais & Léonard : Grand Duo de Concert nr. 1  
Brugge, Kempinski Hotel, 7.30 p.m. [www.kempinski.com/bruges](http://www.kempinski.com/bruges)

#### May 1, 2010 - ESTA-Congress

Ketevan Roinishvili (cello) & Orchestra Conservatorium Brugge dir. Tonny Osaer  
Work by Servais : Souvenir de Saint-Petersbourg, opus 15  
Brugge, Stadsschouwburg, 5 p.m. [www.estabelgiumflanders.be](http://www.estabelgiumflanders.be)

#### May 3, 2010 - ESTA-Congress

Lecture Peter François about François Servais  
Brugge, Hof van Gistel, 3 p.m. [www.estabelgiumflanders.be](http://www.estabelgiumflanders.be)

#### May 9, 2010

Sarah Dupriez (cello) & Vincent Hepp (violin)  
Work by Servais & Vieuxtemps : Grand duo sur Les Huguenots  
Brussels, Atelier Marcel Hastir (Handelsstraat 51, 1000 Brussels), 5 p.m. [www.sarahdupriez.com](http://www.sarahdupriez.com)

*Are you going to perform a composition by Servais in the near future or do you know about a performance ?  
Please let us know !*

*Most recent info : [www.servais-vzw.org](http://www.servais-vzw.org)*