



# Newsletter

No. 26 – OCTOBER 2012

## In the pipeline

### Amsterdam Cello Biennale

26 October is the first of nine full days of a Cello Festival to be held in every part of the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ and the Bimhuis from morning (*Bach & Breakfast*) until late evening (*Fatboy Cello Lounge* and *Late Night* in the Bimhuis).



This Biennale will have an Eastern theme. The Artist in Residence is the Chinese composer *Tan Dun*, who gives a prominent part for the cello in many of his works. His spectacular Oscar-winning music can be heard and seen (in video) in – among other places – *The Map*, *The Crouching Tiger Concerto* and *Snow in June* (with dancing by Leine Roebana), together with traditional Bach-Suites, romantic sonatas en cello concertos from Vivaldi to Vasks.

At the Biennale some forty international and Dutch top-cellists will be part of a mix of established names and young and yet to be known international competition winners. Thirteen ensembles and orchestras, together with many pianists and other musicians (from harpists to shakuhashi) will accompany the soloists at world premières and also unknown

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musical surprises, so say nothing of many glittering box-office sell-outs from the *IJzeren Repertoire*. Path-breaking talent will be heard during the National Cello Competitions in the open workshops en master-classes and the Mega KCO (*Mega Kinder-Cello Orkest*).

Two concerts to really look forward to are the 'First Recital' on October 29 at 3 p.m., in which *Sol Gabetta* will play Servais' *Fantaisie sur deux airs russes* (a last-minute addition to the programme) and the performance by a few students of the "*Kronberg Academy*" on November 2nd at 3 p.m., in which *Dai Miyata* will play Servais' *Souvenir de Spa*. Throughout the entire biennale the Servais Society will be present with an information and sales stand. **And on November 2nd Peter François will also give a presentation on Servais, at 1.30 p.m. (Kleine Zaal).** During that lecture *Jobine Siekman* and *Charlotte Gulikers* will give a live-performance of the *Second Caprice* by Servais.

### Practical information:

Friday October 26th till Saturday November 3rd 2012  
Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, Amsterdam.

For more details go to: [www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl](http://www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl)

## 14th Servais Concert – May/June 2012

Detailed information will be given in the next Newsletter.

## Obituary Edouard Thibaut

### An entire life in the service of music and Servais

On July 12th, 2012 Edouard Thibaut passed away, aged 90. His well-filled and fertile life was completely devoted to music. He was born in Halle, where his father was postmaster, but he was living in nearby Lembeek during the last years of his life. Edouard was given his music education in the local School of Music in the 1930's and was then a music teacher himself in a few Brussels schools and the surrounding area. In his leisure time he played piano, organ and even the carillon.

But above all his musical heart was with the Halle cello-player Servais. For years on end his great-grandfather Pierre Thibaut had been Servais' gardener and confidant at the Villa Servais, while his great-grandmother was the cook. From childhood he had a very close family relationship with Servais' granddaughters and later with their children and grandchildren. Edouard had an active share in the organization of the great Servais celebrations held in Halle in 1957 and 1966. From the very beginning in 2003 he was closely involved in the newly founded Servais Society, whose honorary president he was, and until his last days he had shown a keen interest in its activities.



During the General Meeting of April 2011, Edouard gave an exceptionally precious object which he had carefully kept and even cherished: the golden watch that François Servais had received from no less a person than the French King round about 1847. On his deathbed Servais had donated it to his faithful servant Pierre. Besides this watch Edouard also gave a nicely decorated case from Saint Petersburg, which had been in the possession of Servais' wife Sophie Feygin, as well as Servais' penknife, which Franz Liszt is said to have used on the occasion of his visit to the Servais villa. It was Edouard's wish that these valuable objects should be donated to the Society's Servais collection.

### Looking back

13th Servais Concert celebrated Servais: 205 years  
On June 9th the Swiss musicians Wen-Sinn Yang and Adrian Oetiker were our guests in Halle, where they gave a festive



concert, the thirteenth in the series of Servais Concerts since the beginning in 2003.

Cellist Wen-Sinn Yang has always had a special liking for Servais' oeuvre from his childhood on. So he regularly plays a work of the Halle composer; last year a CD was brought out in which he performs four Servais compositions together with the "Münchner Rundfunkorchester". In Halle he played *Souvenir de Spa* and *Fantaisie sur le Barbier de Séville*, two of Servais' most favourite works, recorded on this CD. Needless to say that this performance was particularly appreciated by the audience.

Last August Wen-Sinn Yang undertook a long tour through Switzerland; *Souvenir de Spa* as well as *Le Barbier de Séville* featured each of his performances. The concerts took place in Poschiavo, Thusis, Soglio, Sent, Klosters and Reichenau. *Le Barbier de Séville* was also in the programme in Nagold (Germany) on August 4th and Horn (Austria) on August 14th.

### Weg van Klassiek! Enjoying music for three days

The Servais Society was one of the co-organizers of the second edition of the "Weg van Klassiek" festival. Between Friday 24th and Sunday August 26th music and nature lovers were given an opportunity to discover surprisingly lovely spots scattered in the valley of the river Zenne. 'Water' was the theme of this year's edition.



Didier Poskin and the "Leporello Quartet" performing Servais' *Souvenir de Spa* at the Alseberg Herisem mill.

For more information go to: [www.wegvanklassiek.be](http://www.wegvanklassiek.be) or contact [info@wegvanklassiek.be](mailto:info@wegvanklassiek.be)

### Miscellaneous News

» On July 10th, 2012 Peter François gave a lecture in La Spezia (Italy) during an international symposium in connection with *The Franco-Belgian Violin School from G.B. Viotti to E.Ysaÿe*. He spoke about the concert tours undertaken by François Servais and his friends, the Belgian violinists De Bériot, Vieuxtemps, Ghys and Léonard.

[www.luigiboccherini.org](http://www.luigiboccherini.org)

» Again, the Society was able to add an old 78 disc with work by Servais to their collection. It concerns a ca. 1920 re-edition of the recording of *Fantaisie sur Le Désir*, played by Heinrich Kruse and a German orchestra. This acquisition raises the number of records, cassettes and CD's with works by Servais kept in the Servais collection to some 50 items. At least five editions are still missing, marked

with \* in the discography on [www.servais-vzw.org](http://www.servais-vzw.org). In addition the collection possesses scores of recordings, not (yet) brought out so far.



Detail of the newly acquired record (Parlophon 665/6, ca.1920)

- » The Halle Zuidwestbrabants Museum widely opened its doors all day on the occasion of the *Open Monumentendag* in Flanders on September 9th, 2012. Specially for this occasion a copy of Servais' Strad by Paul Darche (1881) was on display, together with a 19th century cello case, which closely resembles the one used by Servais himself and which was a gift from the Brussels lutenist Jan Strick, donated to our Museum.



[www.streekmuseum-halle.be](http://www.streekmuseum-halle.be)

- » And last September the tearoom-bistro *Servais* was opened in the Halle Great Market Square or Grand Place.
- » Cellist Nicolas Deletaille recorded Servais' adaptation of *La Romanesca* with pianist Alain Roudier. Instead of using a cello for this recording, Nicolas played on an arpeggioni, a hybrid between a guitar and a cello. The short-lived arpeggioni originated in the year 1823. Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata* is the best known composition for this instrument. However, this widely known work is now mostly performed on a cello. *La Romanesca* can be downloaded on [www.cdbaby.com/cd/nicolasdeletaille9](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/nicolasdeletaille9)

## In the showcase

### CD Didier Poskin

Once more there are glad tidings from the CD world: a second Servais CD of the Belgian cellist Didier Poskin has just been brought out by the label FugaLibera, on which he performs the *Concerto en si mineur*, the *Morceau de Concert*, the *Fantaisie burlesque sur Le Carnaval de Venise* and *La Romanesca*. The recording took place in Seoul with the orchestra of the South Korean Radio.



The Servais Society provided the scores and gave some artistic advice; more particularly, Peter François wrote the accompanying texts. The Halle citizens will be pleased to see that Servais' bust from the Servais Academy figures on the front cover.

Last year the *Concerto en si mineur* also appeared on the CPO-CD of Wen-Sinn Yang (highly recommended; can be obtained via the Society). The *Morceau de Concert* is a world première, while *Le Carnaval de Venise* had been only available as a recording with cello and piano.

Since the *Festival Servais 2007* this is the fifth CD entirely devoted to Servais. The Society regularly receives requests from musicians and/or orchestras for scores of Servais, so there is a good chance that new recordings are to follow in the near future.

*François Servais, Cello Concertos Nr. 1 & 2. Fantaisie Burlesque – La Romanesca. FugaLibera, 2012.*

*Can be obtained from the Servais Society (peter@servais-vzw.org) and the 'Zuidwestbrabants Museum' (museum@halle.be or +32 2 365.94.15).*

### Catalogue: Misia, Reine de Paris

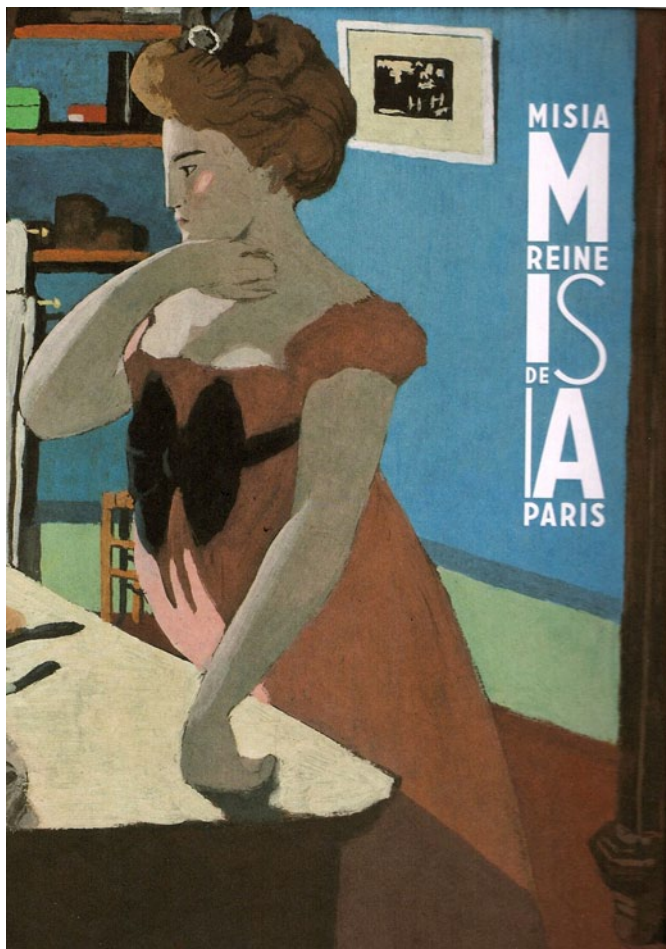
Between June 12th and September 9th, 2012 there was a remarkable exhibition at the Paris *Musée d'Orsay* about Servais' granddaughter Misia: *Misia, Reine de Paris*.

The exhibition, which got a wide reception, attracted over 400.000 visitors. An impressive collection of Misia-related items was displayed. It featured a great many portraits of Misia, by Auguste Renoir, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pierre Bonnard, Edouard Vuillard and Félix Vallotton, as well as a fan and a necklace which had belonged to Misia, scores, letters, pictures, a film... The free loans came from all over the

world, while the Society gave some advice during the preparations.

Who was not able to make the trip to Paris should hurry to the *Musée Bonnard* in Le Cannet, where this exhibition, albeit in a slightly modified presentation, runs from October 13th, 2012 till January 6th, 2013.

The extensive catalogue offers an interesting survey of the exhibits as well as a number of background articles: *Misia, fée verte* (Claude Arnaut), *Misia, au temps de la Revue Blanche, 1893-1903* (Isabelle Cahn), *Vuillard amoureux: ses années Misia* (Guy Cogeval), *Madame Verdurinska. Misia et les Ballets Russes de Diaghilev* (Mathias Auclair) and *Musicienne du silence. Les portraits de Misia* (Martine Kaufmann).



Isabelle Cahn e.a. 'Misia, Reine de Paris'. Musée d'Orsay et Gallimard, 2012 (178 p.) ISBN 978-2-07-013819-7  
A copy of this catalogue can be looked into at the 'Zuidwestbrabants Museum' in Halle.

## Concert Calendar

### October 29, 2012 – Amsterdamse Cello Biënnale

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Frank van de Laar (piano)  
Work by Servais: Fantaisie sur deux Airs Russes, opus 13  
Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, 3 p.m.  
[www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl](http://www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl)

### November 2, 2012 – Amsterdamse Cello Biënnale

Dai Miyata (cello) & Biënnale Ensemble  
Work by Servais: Souvenir de Spa, opus 2  
Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, 3 p.m.  
[www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl](http://www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl)

### November 2, 2012 – Amsterdamse Cello Biënnale

Presentation by Peter François on Servais,  
Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw aan het IJ at 1.30 p.m.  
[www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl](http://www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl)

### November 18, 2012

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Sergio Ciomei (piano)  
Work by Servais: Fantaisie sur deux Airs Russes, opus 13  
Martigny (Switzerland), Fondation Giannada  
[www.solgabetta.com](http://www.solgabetta.com)

### November 19–20, 2012

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Bertrand Chamayou (piano)  
Work by Servais: Fantaisie sur deux Airs Russes, opus 13  
November 19: Zürich (Switzerland), Tonhalle Grosser Saal  
November 20: Olten (Switzerland)  
[www.solgabetta.com](http://www.solgabetta.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)*