



Newsletter Servais Society n° 65-66 - October- November 2021

150 YEARS SERVAIS STATUE

On 26 November 1866 the cellist François Servais died in his home town Halle. For 33 years he had travelled all over Europe as one of the most famous cello virtuosos. Nevertheless Servais remained strongly connected with his home town, where he built an impressive villa. Already in his funeral oration Mayor Giblet put forward the wish to raise a monument to commemorate the famous fellow townsman. Only a few days later a first meeting took place. Subscription lists were distributed all over the country and even the king did his share. Cyprien Godebski, Servais' son-in-law, who at that time lived in Halle, received the order. Godebski had already sculptured the bas-reliefs of the villa Servais and was ready to start an international career. He sculptured the Servais statue out of one piece of precious carara marble and finished it in 1869.

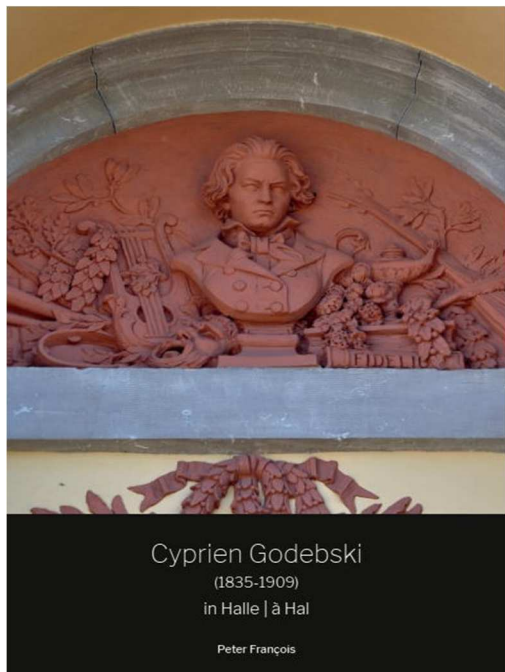
On 1 October 1871 the Servais statue was being officially inaugurated in the presence of Servais' mother, widow, children and grandchildren. Among the thousands of persons present were Félicien Rops, Jean-Pierre-Cluysenaer, Henry Vieuxtemps, François-Auguste Gevaert and other prominent persons. No less than twenty music associations played in the city that day, there was a special celebration dinner and three special commemoration medals were being distributed.

On 1 October 2021, exactly 150 years after the inauguration, the Servais Society organized a short ceremony at the statue. Some descendants of Servais were present as guests of honour.



Photo Emile Devogeleer

BROCHURE 'CYPRIEN GODEBSKI IN HALLE'



At the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the inauguration of the Servais statue the Servais Society published a brochure on the sculptor Cyprien Godebski and his Halle work. Sculptures by Godebski are spread around the world and actually enjoy a growing interest. The brochure is for sale at Den AST Museum for 9 euros or can be ordered at the Servais Society (12,50 euros, postage costs from Belgium inclusive; 15 euros for orders outside of Belgium).

CELLIST JOEL KROSNICK: A LIFE-CHANGING LOVE AFFAIR WITH SERVAIS' MUSIC



In April the famous American cellist Joel Krosnick became eighty years old. Fifty years ago he had a love at first sight with Servais' music and the passion has not faded. Time for a talk.

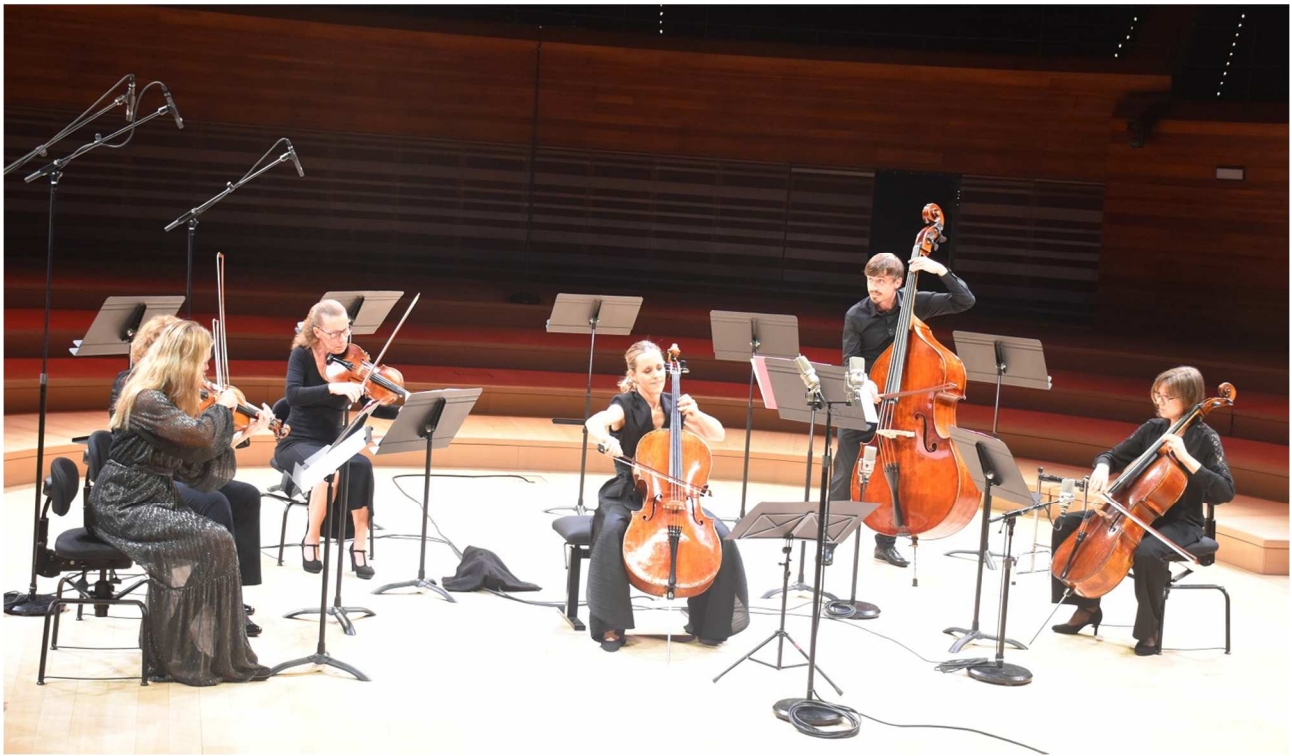
"The Servais style of Cello Virtuosity will be relevant to all music, from the Six Suites of Bach, through the 18th century virtuoso music of Boccherini and Anton Kraft, through the 19th and 20th century works of Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Prokofiev, and Shostakovich, to anything written in the 21st century: Command of the cello; and Delight in the Virtuosity of the cello!!"

[Read the interview](#)

SOL GABETTA PLAYED SOUVENIR DE SPA IN PARIS

On 26 September 2021 a special concert took place in the Maison de la Radio et de la Musique in Paris. Sol Gabetta, one of the world's most notorious cellists, performed compositions by Servais and Rossini. For the last ten years she has been playing Servais' *Fantaisie sur deux airs russes* all over the world. In Paris she played *Souvenir de Spa* by Servais for the first time. Sol Gabetta interpreted the virtuoso work with the greatest ease and a lot of enthusiasm.

She was accompanied by five musicians of Radio France. Gabetta continued with *'Une Larme'* by Gioachino Rossini, a composition that Servais had played for the first time in Paris with Rossini at the piano. The concert has been recorded and will be broadcasted by Radio France at a later moment. Sol Gabetta loves Servais' music and aims at playing *Souvenir de Spa* a lot of times.





Peter François and Sol Gabetta

RECORDING 6 ETUDES



In June the Servais Society released a recording of three Etudes by Servais, played by Didier Poskin and Pierre Brunello. In the mean time also the first, fifth and sixth Etude are available through the YouTube canal of the Servais Society. They were performed by Viviane Spanoghe and Luc Devos.

At this moment the Etudes are being studied by cellists all over the world. Those who want to participate at the Queen Elisabeth Contest for cello in 2022 have to send in a video with a recording of one of the Etudes.

Listen

COMING SOON: 26th SERVAIS CONCERT ON NOVEMBER 28



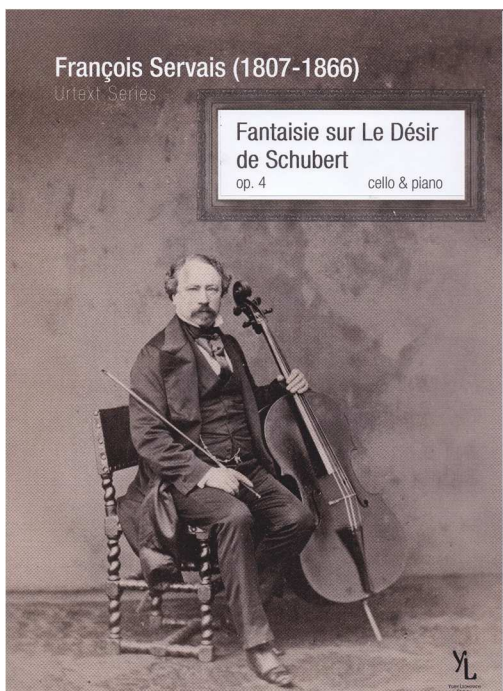
Servais had some Spanish cellists among his students and his compositions could regularly be heard in Spain. During the 26th Servais concert his influence on the Spanish school of cello playing will become evident. Javier Escalona and Laura Granero will perform works by Servais and by Spanish composers such as Pascual Ramayón Barrett, Gerónimo Jiménez and Jesús de Monasterio.

Since 2016 the Spanish cellist Javier Escalona has been a student of the Belgian cellist Roel Dieltiens at the Hochschule für Musik in Zürich. He is also member of the Zürcher Barockorchester. Laura Granero (Madrid,

1991) is a frequently asked pianist and researcher.

[More info](#)

SERVAIS URTEXT SERIES

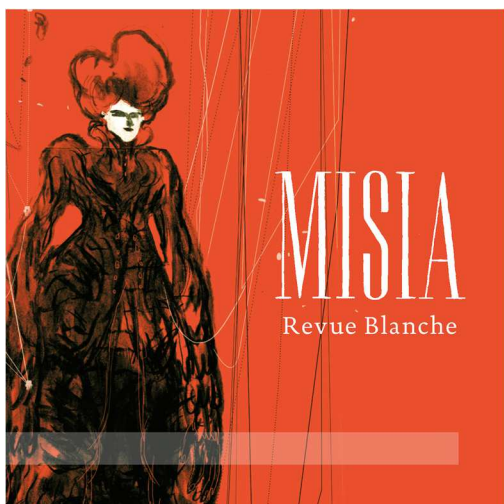


The Servais Society and cellist Yuriy Leonovich started with a series of Urtext editions of Servais' compositions. Not only the cello-piano version will be published, but also the version for cello and quintet. The digital versions are obtainable via www.yuriyleonovich.com and the distinguished printed versions via the Servais Society.

New (October 2021): Fantaisie et Variations brillantes sur la Valse Le Désir de Schubert, opus 4 (cello-piano)

[More info](#)

NEW CD: 'MISIA' BY REVUE BLANCHE



In 2018 the ensemble Revue Blanche immersed itself in the world of Misa Sert. It ended in a series of performances together with radio producer Katharina Smets. The treasure of Misa-related music was so big that Revue Blanche continued the Misa project with a purely instrumental Misa program. It appeared on cd. On 6 October 2021 the cd was presented by two concerts in the Max Halet house in Elsene/Ixelles. The cd is on sale at the Servais Society (20 euro, shipping to Belgium included; + 6 euros for shipping outside of Belgium).

Music by Maurice Ravel, Erik Satie, Henri Duparc, Alfredo Casella, Georges Auric and Déodat de Séverac.



Revue Blanche in Ixelles, October 6, 2021 (photo Dymphna Vandenebeele)

AGENDA

14.11.2021 - Hommage to Maurice Gendron in Paris

The Association Française du Violoncelle will organize a concert in the CRR de Paris in commemoration of Maurice Gendron, who last year would have become 100 years. Didier Poskin will play Servais' Fantaisie sur le Barbier de Séville. [More info.](#)

28.11.2021 - 26th Servais Concert

'Servais in Andalusia' with Javier Escalona and Laura Granero. [More info.](#)

13-16.04.2022 - Four days with Servais

The Tansman Cello Quartet and Ann Van Hecke will give a four days training in Halle during the fourth edition of 'Four days with Servais'. [More info.](#)

09.05-04.06.2022 - International Queen Elisabeth Competition for Cello

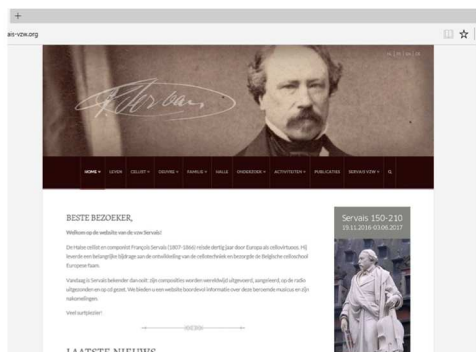
The last evening of the finals on 4 June will be live broadcasted in the Council Hall of the new Town Hall in Halle. [Website of the Competition.](#)

27-28.05.2022 - Cello Competition Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

[More info.](#)

05.06.2022 - Hommage concert to Elisa de Try in Lille

The concert association Chambre à Part in Lille organizes a concert in commemoration of Servais' student Elisa de Try (1846-1922). [More info.](#)



VISIT THE SERVAIS WEBSITE!

[Through the web site](#)

