



This newsletter will provide you regularly with news about the activities of the Servais Society and the Festival Servais 2007.

Deze nieuwsbrief bestaat ook in het Nederlands.

Newsletter

No. 7 - JANUARY 2007

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Contents:

- > Best wishes
- > Festival news
- > Other news about Servais
- > Contact

Best wishes

The Servais Society wishes you ... a sparkling Festival Servais 2007.

Festival news

On November 26, 2006 the Festival Servais 2007 started. It celebrates the bicentenary of Servais' birthday for a whole year.



Looking back on the first activities

November 26, 2006 - successful start

At 10 a.m. the holy mass in the basilica of Halle commemorated Servais' death exactly 140 years ago. During this celebration the Finnish cellist Seeli Toivio played some intermezzos by Servais.

Afterwards some seventy people attended a ceremonial at the grave of Servais at the cemetery of Halle. The Royal Harmony Saint-Cecilia played music. Speeches were delivered by Peter François, president of the Servais Society, Dirk Pieters, mayor of Halle and Rev. Raymond Decoster, dean of Halle.

At 8 p.m. the opening concert took place. More than four hundred enthusiastic spectators and listeners could enjoy romantic cello music. Twenty one cello students at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, where Servais himself had been a professor for eighteen years, brought an interesting program full of variation and quality.

On www.servais2007.be you can find more pictures.





Theatre group Volharding played ‘The fountain of Servais’

On December 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9, 2006 the theatre group Volharding performed a play about Servais, inspired by ‘The revisor’ by Nicolay Gogol. The place of action was the Villa Servais, where Servais organized a joke with his guests from the city council. Some 1500 people came to watch the play which was acted by local actors in the local dialect.

December 15: presentation of the Servais liqueur

During the Christmas market ‘Stars around Servais’ at the Grand Market the Servais liqueur was launched. It is a drink containing small particles of real gold: ‘golden Servais’.

Coming soon... (January-March 2007)

January 11 - Liège, University

Lunch time concert with Sébastien Walnier and Eliane Reyes

January 17 - Zilina (Slovakia), Fatra House of Arts

concert with Didier Poskin and Slovak Sinfonietta directed by Herman Engels

January 19 - Brussels, Royal Library of Belgium

Lunch time concert with Luc Tooten and Stéphane De May

January 19 - Antwerp, Carolus Borromeus church

New years concert with Slovak Sinfonietta directed by Herman Engels

January 20 - Turnhout, Paterspand

Concert ‘Pure Romantic’ with Slovak Sinfonietta directed by Herman Engels

January 28 - Halle, Zaal Atlanta

Presentation and selling of the Servais cigar rings at the occasion of the international exchange mart

February 4 - Mechelen, Salons Van Dijck

Sunday afternoon concert with Luc Tooten and Stéphane De May

February 24 - Halle, church of Essenbeek

Choir concert with Jan-Niklaaskoor, Elke Wynants and Paulina Sokolowska

March 8 - Heist-op-den-Berg, Culture centre Zwaneberg

‘Autour de Adrien François Servais’ with Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie directed by Herman Engels

March 20 - Brussels, Museum of musical instruments

Lunch time concert with Luc Tooten and Stéphane De May

March 23 - Holzgerlingen (Germany)

Concert with Luc Tooten and Stéphane De May

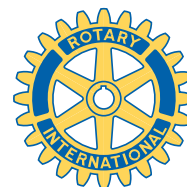
March 27 - Halle, center

Inauguration of the Servais walk during the ‘Night of History’

National Cello Competition

In April 2007 there will be a National Cello Competition ‘Adrien François Servais’, organised by Rotary Club Ghent with the collaboration of the Servais Society.

You can find more information on www.servais2007.be or on www.rotarygent.org.



Call to the Support Committee and the Committee of Honour

We could recently welcome the hundredth member of the Support Committee and the Committee of Honour. We invite all Servais sympathizers to join one of these committees. If you agree, your name will be mentioned in the program and on our web site.

Financial contributions (Support Committee) are welcome but are not necessary (Committee of Honour). Your moral support is of prime importance.

Registration is simple and can be done through the web site. You can also register by e-mail, by letter or phone.



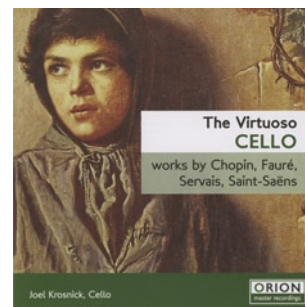
Other news about Servais

New Servais CD

The Marquis label (Canada) recently released the CD 'The Virtuoso Cello'. It is a reissue of a recording of 1972 containing three compositions by Servais, played by Joel Krosnick. Furthermore: a few smaller compositions by Popper, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Fauré and others.

CD 'The Virtuoso Cello', Canada, Marquis, Marquis 83117 (2006).

More information on www.servais-vzw.org.



Kunsttijdschrift Vlaanderen

The art magazine *Kunsttijdschrift Vlaanderen* published an article by Peter François. It contains a summary of his investigations.

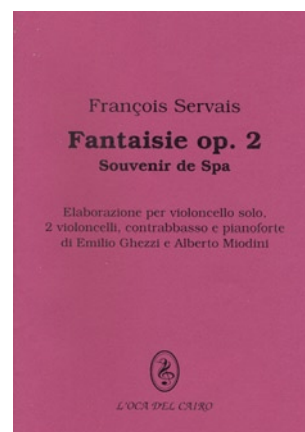
Peter François, 'De evenknie van Paganini en Liszt: Adrien François Servais'. In Kunsttijdschrift Vlaanderen, vol. 55, nr 313, November 2006, p. 326-328.

Score Souvenir de Spa

We have just discovered an arrangement of *Souvenir de Spa* - Servais' opus 2 - which appeared a few years ago in Parma:

François Servais. Fantaisie op. 2. Souvenir de Spa. Elaborazione per violoncello solo, 2 violoncelli, contrabbasso e pianoforte di Emilio Ghezzi e Alberto Miodini. L'Oca del Cairo, Parma, 2001.

More info and orders: www.ocadelcairo.it



The Servais web site

The Servais web site notifies a growing success. Since it started 13 months ago the web site has reached more than ten thousand unique visitors from 72 countries. Only 54 % of the visitors came from Belgium.

www.servais-vzw.org

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