

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

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Festival news

On our way to June 6

Last chance to visit the exhibition

The highlight of the Festival Servais 2007 is coming closer. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Servais exhibition in the Old Post Office, you'd better hurry. June 6th is the ultimate date. That Wednesday the exhibition is opened from 12 am to 7 pm. However, if you would miss it, there is a small comfort: during the summer months July and August, the exhibition can again be visited in a reduced form in the historical City Hall at the grand place (opening hours: see website).

Solemn Ceremony

On June 6, at 5 pm a solemn ceremony or academic conference will be organized in the New City Hall at the occasion of Servais' bicentenary. The following personalities will make a speech: Anner Bijlsma, the world-famous cellist from Amsterdam, Geert Bourgeois, Flemish Minister of Media, Tourism and Foreign Affairs, Dirk Pieters, mayor of Halle and Peter François, President of the Servais Society. Eight cellists from the Conservatory of Maastricht will provide a musical touch by performing a part of the Servais program they played in their home town on 19 April 2007.

Jubilee Concert in the Basilica of Saint-Martin



The same evening at 7.30 pm two cellists and their accompanists will pay homage to Servais by a musical birthday present. The Finnish cellist Seeli Toivio will perform romantic music by Servais, Schubert and Liszt, accompanied on the piano by her brother Kalle Toivio. The German cellist Alexander Hülshoff will play the second part of the concert together with the violinist Friedemann Eichhorn from Weimar.



It is no coincidence that this concert will take place in the Basilica of Saint-Martin in Halle. In this church Servais put his first steps into music by playing in the church orchestra for eight years.

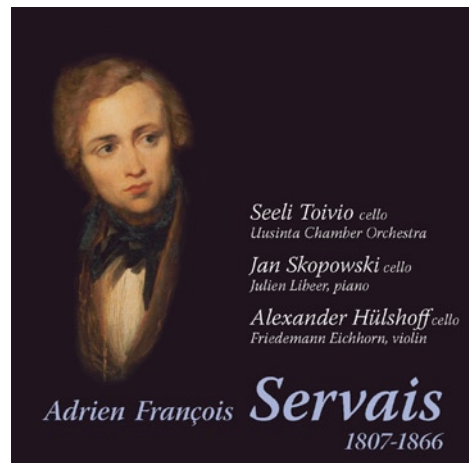
Popular feast

After the concert everybody is invited to a reception at the grand place. It should become a real popular feast.



Release of the Servais cd, a musical souvenir

On June 6, a cd with compositions by Servais will be released. Performers are Seeli Toivio (accompanied by the Finnish Uusinta Chamber Orchestra), Alexander Hülshoff and Friedemann Eichhorn, and Jan Skopowski, a Polish cellist accompanied by the Belgian pianist Julien Libeer. Price: €5, for sale during Festival activities and available through the Servais Society.



The Servais Festival in the media

In newspapers, on the internet, radio and television the Festival activities attract a great deal of attention. In the following days you can expect the following radio broadcasts:

- June 6: Musiq3, Program Carnet de Notes (Michel Béro), 9.30 - 11 am: a complete program about Servais;
- June 6: Klara, program Ludwig (Fred Brouwers), ca 3.30 pm: broadcast of the concert of May 4: recital Viviane Spanoghe and André De Groote;
- June 8: Klara, program Ludwig (Fred Brouwers), ca 3.30 pm: broadcast of Birthday concert of June 6.

*If you can not receive these stations through the air, it is always possible to listen to these programs through the live streams on their web sites:
www.musiq3.be and www.klara.be*

Looking back on the activities of April and May 2007

National cello competition 'Adrien François Servais' very successful

Six of the thirteen young cellists that participated to the national cello competition from April 13 to 15, 2007 reached the final session. The Rotary Prize was won by Thibault Lavrenov.

Sarah Dupriez got the Servais Prize, because she was the best performer of the Servais composition. Next year on June 6, 2008 Sarah Dupriez will perform in Halle at the first concert the Servais Society will organize in that year.



Left to right: Marie-Noëlle Damien, Sarah Dupriez, Peter François and Dirk Pieters (Mayor of Halle)



Servais celebrated in Maastricht

April 19 was a new highlight in the Servais Festival. 26 (former) students of the Conservatory of Maastricht performed a complete Servais program, conducted by Professor Mirel Iancovici. They played Servais' *Souvenir de Czernovitz*, opus 21, *Souvenir de St.-Petersbourg*, opus 15 and *Souvenir de la Hollande*. They ended with *Viva Servais! Rhapsodie belge pour huit violoncelles* by Mirel Iancovici.

Servais brought alive in exhibition and book

On May 4, the exhibition 'Adrien François Servais 1807-2007. The world-famous cellist from Halle' was opened in the Old Post Office in Halle. It shows Servais' career as a travelling cello virtuoso and many other aspects of his life and achievements. The exposed material comes mainly from the collection of the Zuidwestbrabants Museum in Halle, completed with reproductions and loans from almost fifty archives and libraries all over the world. The catalogue contains 128 pages and more than hundred coloured illustrations. The price is only €5.



The same day, a book was presented: 'Ah! Le métier de donneur de concerts! Adrien François Servais (1807-1866) als rondreizend cellovirtuoos'. This illustrated book, written by Peter François, investigates the phenomenon of the travelling virtuoso in view of Servais' career. It contains an English and French summary. 192 pages, price: €10.



After the Servais beer, the Servais wine

The 'Wijngeuzen' produced a white and a red Servais wine. Both wines are delicious and are for sale at the exhibition and other Festival activities.



Recital Viviane Spanoghe and André De Groot

Following the preview of the exhibition on May 4, the Belgian cellist Viviane Spanoghe and the pianist André De Groot played a recital in the New City Hall.

They performed music by Servais and contemporary composers, but also a very modern work: a world premiere of a composition by Peter Swinnen 'Souvenir de l'île de Koch' commissioned by the Servais Society, with support from the Flemish Government. It was an homage to Servais illustrating that the cello technique is still in evolution.



Prizes drawing contest

On May 5, the winners of the drawing competition for the youth and their parents were invited to a little ceremony. These creative youngsters received some beautiful prizes. Their drawings are on show at the exhibition in the Old Post Office.

Villa Servais visible again

People who walk in the neighbourhood of the Villa Servais will not believe their eyes. The glorious building is visible again from a large distance. The house that covered part of the sight was pulled down in the first days of May 2007. Hopefully the villa from 1847 will be restored very soon now.



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