



Newsletter

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Forthcoming

Looking back at the Festival Servais 2007



In 2007 the town of Halle was enthralled by Servais throughout the year. Innumerable events took place to celebrate the bicentenary anniversary of the famous cello player from Halle.

A **photographic exhibition** featuring last year's festivities is presented in the foyer of the new Town Hall from 3 October till 31 October 2008. It can be visited during the opening hours of the Town Hall (weekdays, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., and on Saturday, 9 - 12 a.m.). Every Saturday morning between 10 and 12 a.m. the Servais Society will help you at their information and sales desk.

The Servais Society will also have a stand at the Cultural Festivity in Cultuurcentrum 't Vondel on Saturday 25 October.

Rastrelli Cello Quartet in Halle

On 21 November our town will host the world-famous **Rastrelli Cello Quartet**. These four Russian cellists succeed in conjuring up the sound riches of a complete ensemble. In this way they convincingly demonstrate the cello has a lot to offer. Their transcriptions of known works from the classical and jazzy repertory have already been recorded on four cd's. In Halle they will perform a selection of them, as well as a few pieces by Servais.



More info : www.rastrelli.de

Practical information :

Friday 21 November 2008 – cc 't Vondel Halle – 8 p.m.

Tickets : cc 't Vondel, Possozplein 40, Halle, +32 2 365 94 05, cultuurcentrum@halle.be.

Our members can order two tickets at the subscription rate (only through the Servais Society).

Any further information can be provided by the Servais Society.

The 2009 Servais Cello Competition

The International Cello Competition Servais, to be organized for the second time next year, is open to all talented young cellists from the Benelux countries. The first round is to take place in Halle on 16 and 17 April 2009 and will decide who qualifies for the finals in Ghent on 18 April. The first round and the finals will undoubtedly be thrilling musical events. The winner of the *Servais Prize* will be invited to Halle in the course of November 2009.

Practical information :

For the contestants : Regulations and rules available on www.servais-vzw.org and on www.rotarygent.org.

For the public : Exact information about the hours will be provided on www.servais-vzw.org.

In the Showcase

New Servais CD and DVD 'Souvenir Festival Servais 2007'

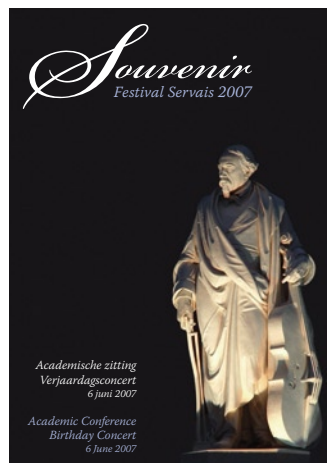


A CD and a DVD have just come out to look back on the Festival Servais 2007. The CD is a collection of compositions by Servais which were performed during the three Servais concerts: *Fantaisie Burlesque* (ou *Le Carnaval de Venise*), *La Romanesca*, *O Cara Memoria*, *Duo sur une*

mélodie de Dalayrac and *Fantaisie sur l'opéra Lestocq*. The CD ends with *Souvenir de l'île de Koch*, a work that Peter Swinnen composed for the Servais Society to pay tribute to the composer.

The DVD shows numerous pictures of the anniversary concert in the Halle Basilica Church on 6 June 2007. So you can listen to *Souvenir de Spa*, *O Cara Memoria* and *Duo sur une mélodie de Dalayrac*, Franz Liszt's *Liebestraum*, the allegro moderato from Franz Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata*, as well as an excerpt from the *Variations brillantes sur l'air God Save the King* by Servais and Joseph Ghys.

The academic ceremony – with speeches by Peter François, Anner Bijlsma, Dirk Pieters, Ernest Vanderlinden and Geert Bourgeois – and the popular festival on the same day are also extensively covered. In addition, the DVD includes pictures of the Servais walk and sketches in the local dialect by members of the drama group "Volharding" and the KWB "Toneel de Linde" from Lembeek.



The Servais Society was set up in November 2003 and so they are celebrating their Fifth Anniversary with these two releases.

Both are available via the Society (telephone : +32 2 360 14 88 or peter@servais-vzw.org), from the VVV office on the central market place of the town and also during any activity of the Servais Society. The price is only € 10 for the CD (9 for our members) and € 15 for the DVD (13,5 for members). Those who buy both of them only have to pay € 20.

The Museum Dynasticum and Servais

The *Museum Dynasticum*, the periodical of "De Vrienden van het Museum van de Dynastie" published an article about Servais' link with the Belgian Royal Family, which was closer and lasted longer than most people tend to think.

Peter François, "Adrien, François Servais, solocellist van Koning Leopold I". In *Museum Dynasticum*, Brussels, vol. 20, nr.1, 2008 : pp.3-12.

Looking Back

The Servais Concert on 6 June 2008



Sarah Dupriez & Kryptos Quartet

On 6 June 2008 Halle celebrated Servais' two hundredth and first anniversary. A musical tribute, with cellist Sarah Dupriez and the Kryptos Quartet performing, was organized at Cultuurcentrum 't Vondel. Besides works by Boccherini, Paganini, Ysaÿe, Cassado and Casals, the programme also included two compositions by Servais himself: *Souvenir de Spa* and *O Cara Memoria*. Sarah Dupriez performed this last piece when she won the Servais Prize at the National Servais Cello Competition a year ago. The enthusiastic looks on their faces were a clear proof that the musicians did fully enjoy their performance.

The Rosamunde Ensemble

Last year the Rosamunde Ensemble gave four concerts with cellist Didier Poskin, in Brussels, Ecaussines, Wavre and Biesme. Each time the programme featured Servais' *Souvenir de Spa* and the *Grande Fantaisie sur des Motifs de l'Opéra Le Barbier de Séville*, which the audience highly applauded. Meanwhile this ensemble has recorded both compositions. They will also be performing works by Servais in the weeks to come (see the concert programme).



The Rosamunde Ensemble as guests at the Ecaussines Castle.

Tooten-De May in Concert

During the summer months the art project 'Ogen, Blikken' (see Newsletter May 2008) took place in Halle. And in order to have the art of painting meet the art of music there was a recital in the Servais Room of the Servais Academy on 23 August by Luc Tooten and Stéphane De May, who performed amongst others Servais' *Fantaisie sur des motifs de l'Opéra Lestocq*.



Stéphane De May & Luc Tooten

Miscellaneous News

- » The well-known Dutch cellist **Anner Bijlsma**, who was visiting Halle on 6 June last year, was elected as an honorary member of the Servais Society. He sent a friendly letter to the Society to inform us that he was very pleased to accept the honorary membership.
- » **Thibault Lavrenov**, the winner of the first Cello Competition Adrien François Servais, was a prize-winner again : he was the laureate of the Jozef Drohomirecki 3rd International Competition for Cello Solo, which took place in Katowice, Poland from 22 to 26 April 2008. During a preparatory private performance we sensed that the musician was extremely well prepared, but that he could win the contest was then beyond everybody's expectations.
- » On 5 May 2008 our honorary president, honorary plenipotentiary minister **Ernest Vanderlinden**, reached the "blessed" age of ninety. A few weeks later Servais' last surviving great-grandson invited some friends and acquaintances for a piano recital followed by a reception in Antwerp. Four members of the Board congratulated the nonagenarian on behalf of the Servais Society.
- » The **International Cello Competition Servais** is to take place from 16 to 19 April 2009, and not at the end of March as announced previously.
- » Our honorary member **Viviane Spanoghe** received the "Prijs van de Gebroeders Darche" from the Patrimony Committee of the Royal Conservatory in Brussels, which is awarded "to an instrumentalist or a singer who promotes Belgian art in this country or abroad".

- » And there is some more news from the Brussels Conservatory. **Peter Swinnen**, who wrote 'Souvenir de l'île de Koch' commissioned by the Servais Society, has been appointed Director of the School in succession to Raphaël D'Haene.
- » The Finnish cello player **Seeli Toivio**, who was our guest in Halle several times in the past few years, now has a website : www.seelitoivio.com. Surely worth visiting.
- » In early June the British conductor, cellist and musicologist **George Kennaway** was staying in Belgium for a week to conduct scientific research about Servais, as part of his study on the way the cello was played on in the 19th century. He examined Servais' manuscripts in the Brussels Conservatory and was also particularly interested in the collection of scores in the possession of the Servais Society and the Zuidwestbrabants Museum. By way of conclusion of his stay in Belgium George Kennaway attended the Servais concert in Halle on 6 June.
- » **David Lamaze**, professor of 'écriture musicale' In the Conservatory of Rennes, France, graduated as Master of Musicology with a dissertation about Maurice Ravel, in which Servais' granddaughter also finds a place.
- » Our member **Birgit Debrabandere** gave a lecture about Servais as part of a course of History of Music that she is taking at the Academy of Boom (near Antwerp). Thanks to her background as a cello player she was able to put Servais' contribution to the cello technique in the right perspective.
- » And some more breaking news ! The **Kryptos Quartet**, our guests in Halle as recently as 6 June 2008, have just won the second prize at the VIII International D. Shostakovitch String Quartets Competition, organised in Moscow from 3 to 8 October 2008.



Ernest Vanderlinden with three of his children

Photos : Guido François, Wim François, Renaat Uyttersprot
© photos and text : Servais Society, 2008

Concert Calendar

Servais Society

November 21, 2008 – Servais Concert

Rastrelli Cello Quartet
Work by Servais : Fantaisie sur deux airs Russes, opus 13 ;
Souvenir de St. Pétersbourg, opus 15
Halle, cc 't Vondel, 8 p.m. www.servais-vzw.org

April 16-17 2009 – First Round International Cello

Competition Servais
Work by Servais : each candidate will play a work by Servais
Halle, Servaisacademie (hours not yet fixed)
www.servais-vzw.org

Other Initiatives

October 9-26, 2008 - Cellissimo

Quirine Viersen (cello) & Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen, cond.
Etienne Siebens
Henry Vieuxtemps, Celloconcerto n°. 1 (written for Joseph Servais)
October 9 : Brussel, Koninklijk Conservatorium, 8 p.m.
October 10 : Kortrijk, De Kortrijkse Schouwburg, 8.15 p.m.
October 11 : Gent, De Bijloke Muziekcentrum, 8 p.m.
October 12 : Antwerpen, deSingel, 3 p.m.
October 15 : Brugge, Concertgebouw, 8 p.m.
October 18 : Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, 8.30 p.m.
October 26 : Tongeren, de VELINX, 5 p.m.
www.symfonieorkest.be

October 10, 2008 - Muziek Biennale Niederrhein

Alexander Hülshoff (cello) & Arnhem Sinfonietta
Work by Servais : Fantaisie Burlesque ou Le Carnaval de Venise
Kamp-Lintfort (Germany), Klosterkirche
www.muziekbiennale.eu

October 18, 2008 - Concert classique d'automne

Ensemble Rosamunde (Jean-François Chamberlain, Pascal Crismer, Anne Pinggen, Bernard Delire) & Didier Poskin (cello)
Work by Servais : Souvenir de la Suisse, opus 10 ; Souvenir d'Anvers
Orbais (Perwez), Eglise, 8 p.m.

October 25, 2008

Ensemble Rosamunde (Jean-François Chamberlain, Pascal Crismer, Anne Pinggen, Bernard Delire) & Didier Poskin (cello)
Work by Servais : Souvenir de la Suisse, opus 10 ; Souvenir d'Anvers
Durbuy, Chapelle castrale - Verlaine s/O (Tohogne), 8 p.m.
www.durbuyculture.be

October 25, 2008

Pieter Wispelwey (cello) & Amsterdam Sinfonietta
Program : o.a. Allegro de Concert, opus 14 by Karl Davidov, dedicated to A. F. Servais
Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, 8.30 p.m.
<http://amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl>

November 20, 2008 - Celloherbst

Rastrelli Cello Quartet (Sint-Petersburg/Stuttgart)
Work by Servais : Fantaisie sur deux airs Russes, opus 13 ;
Souvenir de St. Pétersbourg, opus 15
Unna (Germany), Gelsenwasser, 8 p.m. www.celloherbst.de

December 14, 2008 - Festival Musical de Lasne

Ensemble Rosamunde (Jean-François Chamberlain, Pascal Crismer, Anne Pinggen, Bernard Delire) & Didier Poskin (cello)
Work by Servais : Souvenir de la Suisse, opus 10 ; Souvenir d'Anvers
Lasne, Eglise de Chapelle, 8 p.m. www.lasnefestival.com

December 16, 2008

Sarah Dupriez (cello) & Kryptos Quartet
Work by Servais : Souvenir de Spa, opus 2 ; O Cara Memoria, opus 17
Oudergem, Château Sainte-Anne
www.chateau-sainte-anne.be

January 9, 2009 - Middagconcerten

Nicolas Deletaille (cello) & Jean-Michel Dayez (piano)
Work by Servais : Souvenir d'Anvers
Antwerpen, Kolveniersstraat 20, 12 a.m.
www.middagconcerten.be

January 17, 2009 - Soirées Musicales de Mont-sur-Marchienne

Sarah Dupriez (cello) & Vincent Hepp (violin)
Work by Servais & Léonard : Grand duo de Concert
Mont-sur-Marchienne, Centre Culturel, 8 p.m.
www.soireesmusicalesmsm.be

February 1, 2009

Jan Vogler (cello) & Mira Wang (viool)
Work by Servais & Ghys : Variations brillantes et concertantes sur God Save the King
Zorneding (Germany), Martinstadl, 6 p.m.
www.kulturverein-zorneding-baldham.de

April 18, 2009 - Final International Cello Competition Servais

Gent, Koninklijk Conservatorium (hours not yet fixed)

April 19, 2009 - Proclamation Concert International Cello Competition Servais

Gent, Koninklijk Conservatorium

May 25, 2009

Seeli Toivio (cello) & KohoBeat Symphony Orchestra olv Sahsa Mäkilä
Work by Servais : Concerto in A minor
Helsinki, Temple Church
www.kohobeat.com - www.seelitoivio.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

