

Newsletter

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Forthcoming

Servais Concert on November 26, 2010

The repertoire of the Finnish cello-player Seeli Toivio contains over fifteen works by the Halle composer Servais. She was our town's guest during the Servais Festival held in 2007. And on 26th November she is coming to Servais' native town once more, this time accompanied by two other Finnish ladies, violinist Linda Hedlund and harpist Lily-Marlene Puusepp. These three ladies have already given quite a number of international performances, while they have also undertaken numerous cd-performances. They will bring a selection from the romantic chamber music repertoire. Obviously, Servais will feature high on the programme, precisely on the 144th anniversary of his death.



Photo © Richard Pärni 2010

Practical information :

Friday November 26,

Council Chamber of the Halle New Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available at the cc 't Vondel, Possozplein 40, 1500 Halle, (+32)(0)2 365 94 05 or online : www.vondel.be.

Members of the Servais Society can buy two tickets at the special subscribers' rate via the Servais Society.

Any questions and queries should be addressed to the Servais Society.

Looking back

Servais Concert on June 5, 2010

Once again Halle was able to host a few top musicians for the ninth Servais Concert on 5th June 2010 : Didier Poskin together with the *Ensemble Rosamunde*. Didier Poskin, a cello teacher at the Brussels Royal Conservatory, is a pre-eminent ambassador of Servais' music : indeed, for the past few years he has played work by the Halle cellist in some twenty places in Belgium and even in Luxembourg, Zilina (Slovakia) and Seoul. Together with the *Ensemble Rosamunde* he also produced the cd 'Souvenirs. François Servais', which was released at the beginning of this year and is entirely devoted to Servais, including the first recording of *Souvenir d'Anvers* and *Souvenir de la Suisse*. Needless to say, the Halle programme also featured work by Servais, more particularly his *La Romanesca*, *Souvenir de la Suisse* and *Fantaisie sur Le Désir*, as well as Schubert and Boccherini. The concert was a musical tribute to Servais on the eve of his 203rd birthday. A few members of the Servais Society had expressly come from France, the Netherlands and all (remote) places in this country to attend the concert. There were also a great many cellists in the concert hall, among whom Edmond Baert, a former teacher of Didier Poskin at the Brussels Conservatory. Another famous attendant was Poskin's former student Romain Dhainaut, who will be our guest together with pianist Pierre Brunello on the concert next spring (June 3, 2011).



Miscellaneous News

- » On May 24, 2010 the famous German cello-player **Walter Grimmer** came to Halle, together with his former student Didier Poskin, who is now a professor himself at the Royal Brussels Conservatory.

They paid a visit to the Servais exhibition and had a look at the Servais collection "backstage". Walter Grimmer was so kind as to donate five scores of Servais, which he had used himself before.



- » On July 1, **Sarah Dupriez** and **Vincent Hepp** gave a performance in the magnificent Sint-Laurentiuskerk in Antwerp. They played, for the very first time, the *Grand Duo sur des motifs de l'Opéra Les Huguenots* by Servais and Vieuxtemps.

- » During the summer months the seventh edition of the "**Hortus Festival**" was organized in the Netherlands, which this year focussed on Misa Sert, Servais' granddaughter. Consequently, the programme featured work of Ravel, Debussy, Poulenc, Stravinsky and contemporaries. The six concerts were repeated in Haren, Amsterdam, Leiden as well as Utrecht.

www.hortusfestival.nl

- » Last August **Didier Poskin** travelled to South Korea to teach masterclasses and also to give a few concerts. The theme of one of the concerts, in the Ilshin Hall in Seoul, was "Chopin & Servais on Cello". This was an opportunity for the audience to discover Servais' *Fantaisie sur le Désir* and *Souvenir de la Suisse*.

www.didierposkin.com

- » From September 6 till 10, **Andrzej Pieńkos** was staying in Belgium to pursue his investigation into Cyprien Godebski (1835-1909), sculptor and Servais' son-in-law. Pieńkos is a professor of history of art at Warsaw University and head of the Art-historical Institute of the Polish capital. He also visited Halle, where Godebski had spent several years of his life, which of course has left some traces. In the first place we think of Servais' statue now in the centre of the "Grote Markt", as well as the sculptures that decorate the flight of steps of the ancient Town Hall, the bas-reliefs on the walls of the Villa Servais and Emile Possoz' medallion, which can be seen in the Museum. Finally, also in nearby Lembeek two of Godebski's works have been preserved. Professor Pieńkos had already visited Vienna, Paris, Brittany and Carrara before.

- » The **permanent exhibition** devoted to the Servais family at the "Zuidwestbrabants Museum" has recently been renovated.

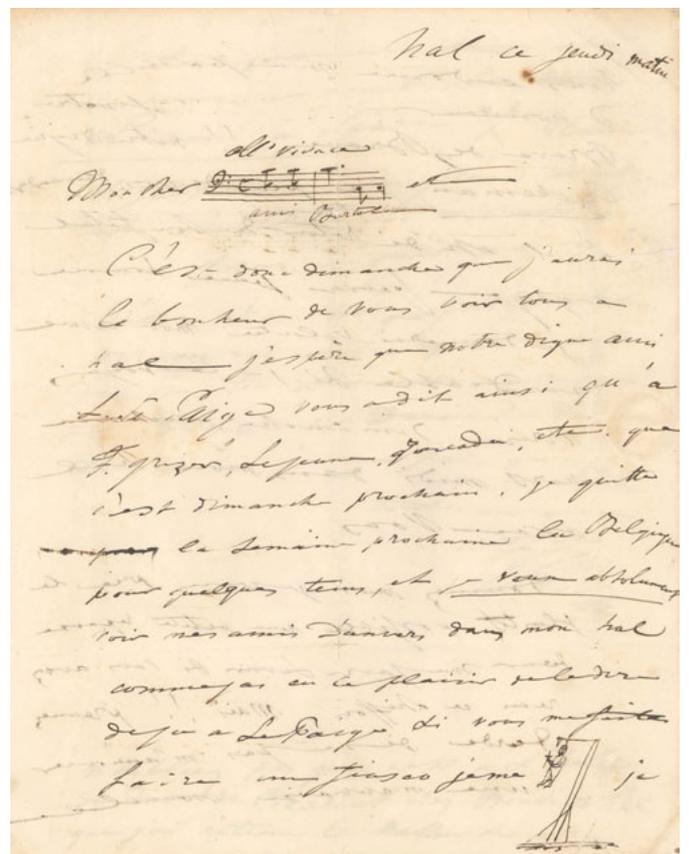
- » **Sarah Dupriez**, the winner of the Servais Prize at the first Servais Cello Competition held in 2007, has been studying under Arto Noras in Hamburg since September 2010 to obtain the postgraduate 'Solist Diplom'. She will be an assistant teacher at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels.

www.sarahdupriez.com

- » The third **Amsterdam Cello Biennale** will be taking place from November 5 till 14. Several thousands of cello lovers will assemble once more in the "Muziekgebouw" near the river IJ for concerts, masterclasses, lectures and competitions. Also the Servais Society will be present.

www.amsterdamcellobiennale.nl/

- » The Halle **Servais collection** has recently acquired one more valuable document : a letter of François Servais, dated 1837. This letter interestingly highlights the personality of the then 29-year-old virtuoso, while it also contains some more information about his contacts with Antwerp. All this is elaborately described in the Dutch version of our News Letter.



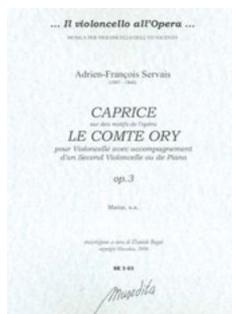
In the Showcase

Le Comte Ory reissued

The Italian publishing house Musedita is renowned for regularly publishing interesting compositions which have not been available for a long time. This mainly involves 17th and 18th century works, but every now and then an excursion is made into the 19th century as well.

So, in 2010 Musedita published a new edition of Servais' *Caprice sur des motifs de l'Opera Le Comte Ory de Rossini*, in the version for two cellos, which had not been available for over a century. The editor drew on the first edition by Schott in 1848 and went about it very carefully. In addition, the reissue has been nicely set up, while the low price is very alluring: a mere 9 Euros for the score and the two parts. Worth the money and so a good incitement to get to know Servais' Opus 3.

Caprice sur des motifs de l'opéra Le Comte Ory (version for 2 cellos). Trascrizione a cura di Daniele Bogni. Musedita, Albese con Cassano, 2010 (nr. SE 3 03). www.musedita.it.



Concert Calendar

Servais Society

November 26, 2010 - 10th Servais Concert

Seeli Toivio (cello), Linda Hedlund (violin) & Lily-Marlene Puusepp (harp)

Work by Servais: Fantaisie pour le Violoncelle, opus 1; Grand duo de Concert nr. 3; Grand duo de Concert nr. 4
Halle, New Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

Organized by: Servais Society and cc 't Vondel

www.servais-vzw.org

June 3, 2011 - 11th Servais Concert

Romain Dhainaut (cello) & Pierre Brunello (piano)

Work by Servais: to be determined
Halle, New Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

Organized by: Servais Society and cc 't Vondel

www.servais-vzw.org

Other initiatives

October 30-31, 2010 - "Cellist-Composer Collection"

Yutaka Hayashi (cello) & Kazue Kojima (piano)

Work by Servais: Morceau de Concert, opus 14

October 30: Osaka (Japan), Osaka Minami YMCA, 3 p.m.

October 31: Shiga (Japan), Figaro Hall, 2 p.m.

November 7, 2010

Festival Violoncellistico Internazionale Alfredo Piatti

Romain Dhainaut (cello) & Pierre Brunello (piano)

Work by Servais: Andante cantabile et Rondo à la Mazurka sur un air de Balfe, opus 7

Bergamo, Sala Piatti

www.alfredopiatti.it

November 7-9, 2010 - "Cellist-Composer Collection"

Yutaka Hayashi (cello) & Kazue Kojima (piano)

Work by Servais: Morceau de Concert, opus 14

November 7: Gifu (Japan), Yasutsugu Hall, 2 p.m.

November 8: Nagoya (Japan), The Concert Hall, 7 p.m.

November 9: Osaka (Japan), The Phoenix Hall, 7 p.m.

January 10-14, 2011

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Sergio Ciomei (piano)

Work by Servais: Fantaisie sur deux Airs russes, opus 13

January 10: Frauenfeld (CH)

January 11: Olten (CH)

January 12: Innsbruck (A)

January 13: Vaduz (LIE)

January 14: Schloss Elmau (D)

www.solgabetta.com

January 28-30, 2011

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Henri Sigfridsson (piano)

Work by Servais: Fantaisie sur deux Airs russes, opus 13

January 28: Siena (I)

January 30: Varese (I)

www.solgabetta.com

March 27, 2011 – Concerts Astoria

Romain Dhainaut (cello) & Pierre Brunello (piano)

Work by Servais: to be determined

Brussels, Musical Instruments Museum, 11 a.m.

www.astoria-concerts.be

*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