



# Newsletter

No. 25 – MAY 2012

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## In the pipeline

### Thirteenth Servais Concert on June 9 2012

The swiss cello player Wen-Sinn Yang had been first cellist of the symphonic orchestra of the "Bayerische Rundfunk" for sixteen years before he was appointed professor at the Munich "Hochschule für Musik" in 2005. His discography comprises more than twenty titles, among which also work by the Halle cellist Servais and his contemporaries Davidov and Piatti. He is coming to Servais' native town together with the Swiss pianist Adrian Oetiker, a musician and music lecturer invited all over the world. The programme features romantic chamber music by Servais and his contemporaries. For sure, a unique opportunity to attend a performance by Wen-Sinn Yang in our country.



### Practical information:

*Saturday June 9*

*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](http://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

### Twelfth Servais Concert commemorating Servais' death 145 years ago

On November 25 2011 Alexander Hülshoff and Friedemann Eichhorn were our guests in Halle for the 12<sup>th</sup> Servais Concert. Besides work by Händel, Mozart, Kodaly and Bartok they also played two duos by Servais. In so doing, they paid tribute to Servais, who died on November 26, 145 years ago. To give this celebration an extra festive dimension a 'special guest' was present: an 1881 copy of the famous 'Servais cello', the Stradivarius cello from 1701, which Servais had played on for 25 years. The original instrument is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and is one of the best and most precious cellos in the world. Alexander Hülshoff himself uses a cello from 1699, which had been in the possession of the Czech David Popper, a colleague and acquaintance of Servais'. For the encore the soloist exchanged his own instrument for the Servais copy, so the audience was able to get acquainted with the wonderful sounds of that particular instrument. This cello has recently been acquired by the Servais Society.

### Cello masterclasses 'Servais' 2012

Between April 10 and 14 the Servais Society managed to organize, once more, masterclasses in the Halle Servais academy for young cello musicians, students and graduated players. This time the master was Gavriel Lipkind, who is touring the world virtually all the time for performances and CD recordings. Yet he was able and... willing to insert a week's stay in Halle into his very busy professional schedule.



Our Society wanted to focus on Servais' 205th birthday by means of this event. For some thirty years Servais travelled through Europe as one of the most honoured cello virtuosos of that age. Even today his compositions are being performed all over the world and recorded on CD. He contributed in a special way to the development of the cello technique. As a lecturer at the Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music he passed on his know-how to new generations of cellists who came from all over Europe to Brussels to be his students. Consequently, the best way to celebrate Servais' birthday was organizing these cello masterclasses in his native town, given by a reputable master at a European level and attended by participants from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Israel and Russia.

On April 10 Gavriel Lipkind gave a much appreciated recital together with pianist Michael Kravtchin to open the masterclasses in a festive way. They performed work by Schumann, Bach and Beethoven. And on Saturday evening April 14 the participants presented a final concert. Both the varied programme and the excellent performance met with enthusiastic approval from the audience.



## Short news survey

- » This year we are celebrating the bicentenary anniversary of the Flemish novelist Hendrik Conscience. The town of Halle and neighbouring Beersel organize a range of festivities, in which our Society will join. Indeed, there is a link between the author and Servais, which as a matter of course will be highlighted in an exhibition set up in the local 'Zuidwestbrabants Museum' and also in a new book by Peter François, 'Hendrik Conscience in Halle'.

[www.conscienceachterna.be](http://www.conscienceachterna.be)



### Hendrik Conscience in Halle,

*de stad "waar hij gaarne verbleef"*

Conscience in de Zennevallei (1851-2012)

Peter François

- » On January 15 Bengt Widlund, cellist in the 'Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest' came to Halle to visit the Servais Collection. This was an opportunity for him to play on the copy of Servais' Stradivarius, kept in Halle.
- » From June 12 till September 9 2012 an exhibition will be staged in the Paris Musée d'Orsay about Servais' granddaughter Misia, entitled 'Misia, Reine de Paris'. Portraits of Misia and her contemporaries are linked to interpretations of present-day artists.

[www.musee-orsay.fr](http://www.musee-orsay.fr)

- » Almost simultaneously with this exhibition there is at the Paris 'Petit Palais' a retrospective about the Spanish painter José Maria Sert, Misia's third husband. 'José Maria Sert, le Titan à l'oeuvre (1874-1945)' can be visited between March 8 and August 5 2012.

[www.petitpalais.paris.fr](http://www.petitpalais.paris.fr)

- » An international conference will be organized in La Spezia (Italy) dealing with 'The Franco-Belgian Violin School from G.B. Viotti to E. Ysaÿe' (July 9 till July 11). Peter François will be giving a talk on Servais' concert trips and those of Servais' friends, violinists De Bériot, Vieuxtemps, Ghys and Léonard.

[www.luigiboccherini.org](http://www.luigiboccherini.org)

- » From August 24 till August 26 2012 the second edition of the festival 'Weg van Klassiek' (a music festival in some of the rural villages in and near Halle) will take place; the Servais Society is one of the partners.

[www.wegvanklassiek.be](http://www.wegvanklassiek.be)

- » And on October 26 2012 the fourth edition of the 'Amsterdamse Cello Biënnale' will be opened. Until November 3 the 'Muziekgebouw' near the river IJ will be a hive of cello sounds. A performance worth looking forward to is the concert given by a few students of the Kronberg Academy on November 2, in which Dai Miyata is to play Servais' "Souvenir de Spa".

[www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl](http://www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl)

## Concert Calendar

### Servais Society

#### June 9, 2012 – 13<sup>th</sup> Servais Concert

Wen-Sinn Yang (cello) & Adrian Oetiker (piano)

Work by Servais: Souvenir de Spa, opus 2 ; Le Barbier de Séville, opus 6

Halle, New Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

Organized by: Servais Society and cc 't Vondel

[www.servais-vzw.org](http://www.servais-vzw.org) – [www.wensinnyang.de](http://www.wensinnyang.de)

[www.adrianoetiker.com](http://www.adrianoetiker.com)

### Other initiatives

#### May 30, 2012 – Final Recital

Romain Dhainaut (cello) & Kaeko Suzuki (piano)

Work by Servais: Fantaisie sur Le Désir, opus 4

Londen, Duke's Hall – Royal Academy of Music, 6.15 p.m.

[www.romaindhainaut.com](http://www.romaindhainaut.com)

#### August 25, 2012 – 'Weg van Klassiek!'

Didier Poskin (cello) & Leporello Quartet

Work by Servais: Souvenir de Spa, opus 2; La Romanesca

Alseberg, Herisemmolen, 11 a.m.

[www.wegvanklassiek.be](http://www.wegvanklassiek.be)

#### September 29 – October 9, 2012

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Mihaela Ursuleasa (piano)

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

*September 29: Rio de Janeiro*

*October 1: Sao Paolo*

*October 2: Buenos Aires*

*October 4: San Juan*

*October 5: Cordoba*

*October 8: Buenos Aires, Teatro Colon*

*October 9: Sao Paolo*

[www.solgabetta.com](http://www.solgabetta.com)

#### November 2, 2012 – Amsterdamse Cello Biënnale

Dai Miyata (cello) & Biënnale Ensemble

Work by Servais: Souvenir de Spa, opus 2

Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, 3 p.m.

[www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl](http://www.amsterdamsecellobiennale.nl)

#### November 18, 2012

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Sergio Ciomei (piano)

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

Martigny (Switzerland), Fondation Giannada

[www.solgabetta.com](http://www.solgabetta.com)

#### November 19–20, 2012

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Bertrand Chamayou (piano)

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

*November 19: Zürich (Switzerland), Tonhalle Grosser Saal*

*November 20: Olten (Switzerland)*

[www.solgabetta.com](http://www.solgabetta.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](http://www.servais-vzw.org)*