



# Newsletter

No. 27 – APRIL 2013

## In the pipeline

### 14<sup>th</sup> Servais Concert – May 24, 2013

No fewer than five cellists and a harpist are coming to Halle to perform in the 14<sup>th</sup> Servais Concert.

The **Duo Eden** – Olsi Leka en Samia Bousbaine – will open the concert with the *Nocturne* by Duport and Servais' *Fantaisie* for cello and harp. Olsi Leka is solo cellist of the "Nationaal Orkest van België" and is also a teacher at the Antwerp Conservatory.

Next, the cello quartet **Occello/2** – Lena Torre, Leire Antonanzas, Judith Groen and Elisabeth Sturtewagen – will perform some wonderful "pearls" from the past, such as *Pensée Elégiaque* by Servais' disciple Jules de Swert, the *Sérénade* by Louis de Stainlein, a good friend of Servais', and *Souvenir de Curis* by Guillaume Paque. To conclude the quartet will play two works by the Finnish metal band Apocalyptica.

*Do not miss this tribute for Servais' 206<sup>th</sup> birthday!*



### **Practical information:**

Friday May 24, 2013 at 8 p.m.

Council Chamber of the Halle New Town Hall

Tickets (€16) 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).

Subscriptions and groups of at least 10 persons: €14).

Members of the Servais Society can buy two tickets at €12 via the Servais Society.

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

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## Looking back

### Amsterdam Cello Biennale

The fourth edition of the Amsterdam Cello Biennale is over. The *Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ* accommodated the nine-day cello festivities.

The day's programme mostly opened as early as 8.45 a.m. with 'Bach & Breakfast': coffee, croissants, and fresh orange juice, followed by the performance of one of Bach's cello suites. At 10.15 a.m. two of the attendant cello celebrities each gave a public master class. During lunchtime Anner Bijlsma used to organize his 'talk show', after which a recital took place at 3 p.m., and then a second concert at 5 p.m. An open performance usually filled the gap from 7 p.m. till the evening concert started. After that late concert there was still a musical close. Last but not least, we should also mention the special children's concerts, workshops and of course the National Cello Competition itself, of which the first and second rounds and the finale constituted the focal point of the festival.



The elite of the international cello world was present in Amsterdam: Colin Carr and Maya Beiser from the US,

Hidemi Suzuki and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi from Japan, Chu Yi-Bing from China, Anssi Karttunen and Jian Wang from Finland, Truls Mork, Norway, Raphael Walfisch, Switzerland, Valter Despalj from Croatia, Xenia Jankovic from Serbia, Sol Gabetta from Germany, Paul Watkins and David Geringas from England, Jérôme Pernoo from France, Roel Dieltiens from Belgium, and Larissa Groeneveld, Doris Hochscheid, Floris Meijnders, Ernst Reyseger and Quirine Viersen from the Netherlands. Not to mention the many young talents, the orchestras and ensembles.



The programmes featured a mix of the firmly established repertoire as well as less known work, while cross-overs with electronic music and other cultures were not shied away from either.

The numerous cello lovers were also given an opportunity to get acquainted with Servais' oeuvre. On Monday, October 29, Sol Gabetta gave a brilliant performance of Servais' *Fantaisie sur deux airs Russes*, acclaimed with a standing ovation. Sol Gabetta's performances during the Biennale were filmed by the "Bayerisches Fernsehen". Her performance of the *Fantaisie* by Servais was also recorded by "Omroep Max" and later broadcast on Radio4. On Friday November 2, it was Dai Miyata who presented one of Servais' works: *Souvenir de Spa*, accompanied by the Ragazze Quartet. His performance was simply wonderful, and so he was also rewarded with a standing ovation. The 26 year old Japanese musician is perfecting his musical education at the "Kronberg Academy". He also performed at the Biennale in another three concerts. All this was recorded by a film crew of the national Japanese television to be telecast in early 2013.

On November 2, Peter François gave a talk about Servais' life and work; on that occasion Jobine Siekman and Charlotte Gulikers played a live performance of Servais' *Caprice* nr. 2.



These players are members of Lucia Swarts' "Jong Talentklas" of the Hague Conservatory, who are studying all of Servais' *Caprices* this academic year.

The winners of the Competition – Jonathan Butler, Harriet Krijgh and Jonathan Roozeman – were given, in addition to the usual cash prize, a package containing the publications of the Servais Society.

Throughout the Biennale our Society was also present with a stand set up in the entrance hall, by the side of cello and bow makers. Many thanks to Arie Jan, Jan, Peter and other "helping hands" for their permanent attendance for more than a hundred hours.

The date of the next Biennale has already been fixed: from October 17 to 25, 2014.

### *Sol Gabetta, Ambassador of Servais*

Peter François

*Sol*. A person with a musical first name like this must be predestined to be an artist. But, of course, what really matters is talent, stamina and a good amount of sound ambition. At present the 30-year-old Argentinian cellist Sol Gabetta is rapidly reaching a top career. Wigmore Hall in London, the "Musikverein" in Vienna, the Amsterdam "Concertgebouw", all of them halls where she gave performances, with orchestras like the "Wiener Philharmoniker", the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra and the "Rotterdams Filharmonisch Orkest".



Sol Gabetta also often performs chamber music, particularly together with the French pianist Bertrand Chamayou, with whom she forms a duo. On August 8, 2009 she chose Servais' *Fantaisie sur deux airs Russes* for the Gstaad Festival. This composition must have specially appealed to her, seeing that ever since she has played this work at some ten concerts in Austria, Switzerland, Germany, England, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and the US. Three of these concerts could be heard live on the radio. And in early 2012 she once again performed Servais' *Fantaisie* in Brazil, Argentina and Switzerland.

I had the privilege of listening to Sol Gabetta in the Ghent "Handelsbeurs" on January 25, 2012. It was sheer presence,

delicate and vivid playing. She and Bertrand Chamayou are a perfect “duo”. Beethoven’s seven variations on a theme from Mozart’s *Zauberflöte* was followed by his third cello sonata, and she concluded the concert with Servais. Her performance fully honoured the Halle composer. Self-restrained and a playing technique that verged on perfection and plenty of attention for the lyrical passages. I was able to congratulate Sol Gabetta on her performance right after the concert; but then she rushed into a taxi off to Düsseldorf, where she had to play the next day. She very much enjoyed playing Servais’ music and is keen on exploring more of his work.

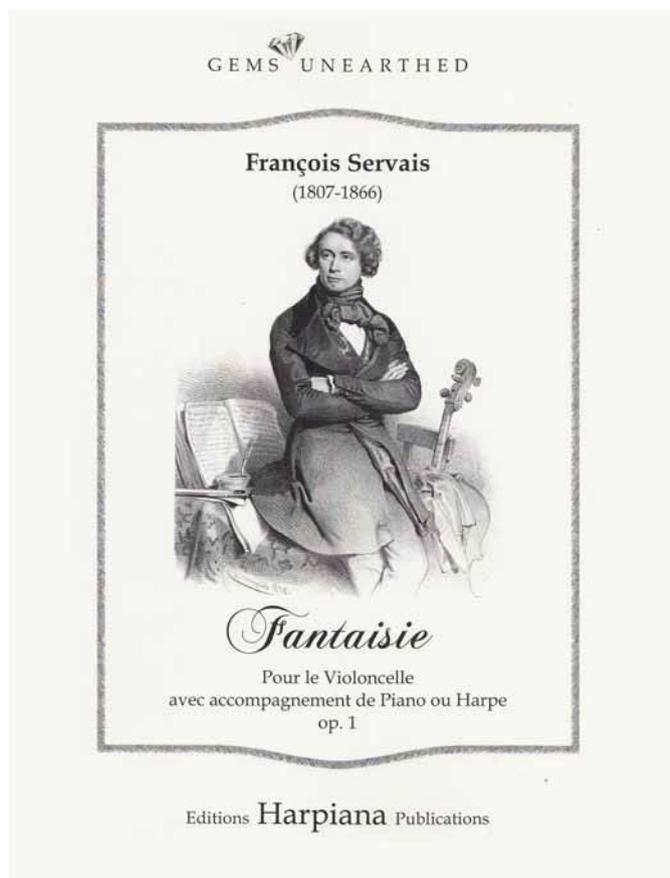


More info: [www.solgabetta.com](http://www.solgabetta.com)

### *In the showcase*

#### Publication of Servais’ *Fantaisie* opus 1

On November 26, 2012 it was 146 years ago that Servais passed away in his native town Halle. But his music is still



very much alive; witness the CD’s and concerts all over the world on which his compositions can be heard.

In order to have access to the scores musicians often have to apply to old conservatory libraries or the Servais Society itself, because nearly all of the 600 editions have been sold out for quite a long time. However, the situation is gradually improving. Two years ago the Italian publishing house Musedita published a reissue of Servais’ *Caprice* on themes from Rossini’s *Le Comte Ory*.

And since November 15, 2012 his *Fantaisie* for cello and harp (or piano) opus 1 has again been available. For this edition we are indebted to Dominique Piana, a Belgian harpist, who has been living in California for the last thirty years. Typically, on November 19, 2012 she came to the Zuidwestbrabants Museum to present, in person, the first copy to Peter François, president of the Servais Society. This Museum boasts a rare copy of the first 1838 edition, which was used as the basis for this reissue. 175 years ago Servais dedicated this work to a Halle citizen, Jean Joseph Vandercammen, who had contributed to Servais’ musical education. A picture of Servais’ well-known statue adorns the back cover of the cello part of this new publication.

*The piano part and the separate cello and harp parts can be ordered from Harpiana Publications in California and via the Servais Society.*

### *Miscellaneous News*

- » Johannes Degen, head of the Department of Music of the “Hochschule für Musik und Kunst” in Zürich paid a visit to the Servais Room of the Halle Museum and also had a look into the Servais Collection. A few weeks later he donated a number of Servais scores from his personal library, which we accepted with thanks.
- » The Japanese station NHK followed the cellist Dai Miyata at the Amsterdam Cello Biennale last November. The 45 minute coverage was broadcast on March 16; the last 15 minutes dealt with his performance of Servais’ *Souvenir de Spa*. And on February 24, 2013 he played the “Spa” again, this time for the concert on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Yamaha in Tokyo.



[www.daimiyata.eu](http://www.daimiyata.eu)

## Concert Calendar

### Servais Society

#### May 24, 2013 – 14<sup>th</sup> Servais Concert

*Duo Eden*: Olsi Leka (cello) & Samia Bousbaine (harp)  
Cello quartet *Occello/2* (Lena Torre, Leire Antoñanzas,  
Judith Groen and Elisabeth Sturtewagen).  
Work by Servais: Fantaisie opus 1  
Halle, New Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

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

#### November 23, 2013 – 15<sup>th</sup> Servais Concert

Didier Poskin (cello), Viviane Spanoghe (cello),  
Pierre Brunello (piano) & Anait Karpova (piano)  
Works by Servais: 6 Etudes, Le Lac de Côme  
Halle, New Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

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

### Other initiatives

#### April 20, 2013

Georgina Sánchez Torres (cello)  
Works by Pablo Casals, Manuel De Falla,  
Gyorgy Ligeti, Georgina Sánchez Torres  
Rosario, Bever, 8.30 p.m.

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

#### April 21, 2013

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Nicolas Goerner (piano)  
Work by Servais: Fantaisie sur deux Airs Russes, opus 13  
Genève (Switzerland), Victoria Hall, 5 p.m.

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

#### April 28, 2013

Sol Gabetta (cello) & Bertrand Chamayou (piano)  
Work by Servais: Fantaisie sur deux Airs Russes, opus 13  
Luzern (Switzerland), Kultur und Kongresszentrum, 11 a.m.

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

#### August 23 - 25, 2013 – Festival 'Weg van Klassiek!'

On different locations in Affligem, Liedekerke and Ternat.

[www.wegvanklassiek.be](http://www.wegvanklassiek.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](http://www.servais-vzw.org)*

