



## Newsletter Servais Society n° 61 - September 2020

### BRUSSELS CELLO FESTIVAL

The **Brussels Cello Festival** is a biennial festival bringing together the world's top cellists and young talents to Belgium for a week of concerts and masterclasses. This year's festival edition will honor the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven with a 3-day journey through his complete cycle of eight works for cello and piano. The other festival highlight is the *Closing Concert* which will celebrate various anniversaries this October - the 2nd edition of the Brussels Cello Festival, the 100th anniversary of the **Pau Casals Orchestra**, and the 75th anniversary of the **United Nations**.

The **Closing Concert on October 11** will feature all the cellists of the festival together on stage with the student participants for a celebration of peace and humanity. **Servais is on the program too**: his *Souvenir de Spa* will be played by Didier Poskin (solo), Marie Hallynck, Francis Mourey, Olsi Leka en Karel Steylaerts.

The Servais Society has still some tickets on sale for the concert of 6 PM - please send an e-mail soon.

**BELGIUM CELLO SOCIETY**

8 - 11 OCT 2020

2<sup>ND</sup> BRUSSELS CELLO FESTIVAL

2020 FESTIVAL ARTISTS

SUNGMIN AHN - JEROME DUCROS - MATHIEU DERROGUE - ANNE GASTINA - STEPHANE GINSBERGH  
 BENJAMIN HAEMBOUYS - MARIE HALLYNCK - SOPHIE HALLYNCK - NATALIA HOFFMAN - VICTOR JULIEN-LAFERRIERE  
 OLSI LEKA - JENS PETER MANTZ - LILY MANSKY - MISCHA MANSKY - FRANCIS MOUREY - ANGELA PARK  
 BRENO PHILIPPE - DIDIER POSKIN - KAREL STEYLAERTS - JAN VOGELER - SEBASTIEN WANDER - HAN BIN YOON

WWW.BELGIUMCELLOSOCIETY.COM

ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF BRUSSELS | RUE DE LA REGENCE 30

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
 HAN BIN YOON

TICKETS PER CONCERT  
 ADULT : 20 €  
 STUDENT : 10 €

INFORMATION  
 INFO: 02 50 12 12  
 INFO@BELGIUMCELLOSOCIETY.COM

BELGIUM  
CELLO  
SOCIETY

8 - 11  
OCT  
2020

2<sup>ND</sup>  
BRUSSELS  
CELLO  
FESTIVAL

11 OCTOBER  
CLOSING CONCERT

15:00 & 18:00 CLOSING CONCERT

CONCERT IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
&  
FUNDACIO PAU CASALS

WWW.BELGIUMCELLOSOCIETY.COM



### BRING ROSSINI'S BUST BACK TO HALLE!

On May 6, 1865, Rossini wrote to a friend in Rome: "the distinguished sculptor Mr. Godebsky who made my bust [...] is the spouse (since short) of the daughter of one of my friends, the great artist, the Paganini of the cello, Mr. Servais". That bust is now for sale and could return to the place where it was created 155 years ago: the Villa Servais in Halle. But we need your support to realize this!

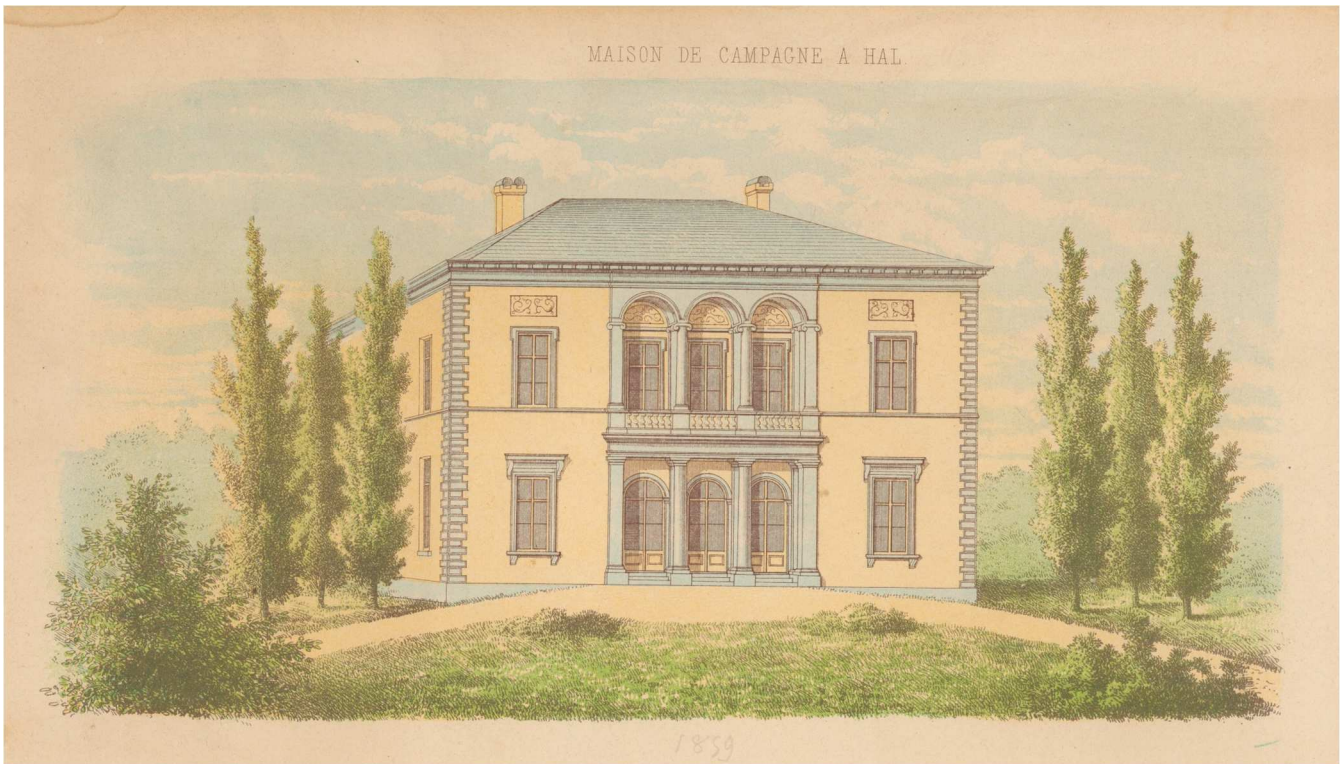
#### *Servais, Rossini's Paganini of the cello*

Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868) composed one successful opera after another at a young age. He later settled in Paris. The Halle cellist François Servais (1807-1866) had a boundless admiration for Rossini. This led to adaptations of his famous opera themes: early on, Servais already composed variations on *Le Comte Ory* and on *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. From his side Rossini also had a strong admiration for Servais. They met in Paris in 1861. Accompanied by the maestro, Servais played the former's new *Une Larme*. Rossini reportedly said at the time that, since Paganini, he had not been moved more by a musician than by Servais. A few weeks later Rossini wrote to the London conductor Julius Benedict "Servais che io riguardo come il Paganini del violoncello" - "I consider Servais as the Paganini of the cello".



## Villa Servais in Halle (Belgium)

In 1847 in his birth city of Halle, at 15 kilometres from Brussels, Servais had a beautiful villa built. Forty years later the family entertained artist friends there such as Frans Liszt, Henry Vieuxtemps and Anton Rubinstein. The Villa Servais is currently being restored and will regain its former functions as of 2022: an inspiring place for cultural activities and guest accommodation.



## Godebski and Rossini

Statues of the Polish-French sculptor Cyprien Godebski (1835-1909) are found across the world. One of his most famous works has stood at the market square of Halle since 1871: the statue of François Servais. In 1864 Godebski stayed at the Villa Servais. He made a series of bas reliefs for the façade; one of those medallions represents Rossini. In 1865 Godebski married Servais's oldest daughter Sophie. They became the parents of Misia. In that same year of 1865 Godebski crafted a bust of Rossini, in Carara marble, with a height of 54 cm.



## Your support: bring Rossini's bust back to Halle!

The bust of Rossini is a beautiful piece by Godebski and belongs nowhere better than in the former home of Rossini's Paganini of the cello, Servais. That way many art lovers will be able to enjoy it. In order to make that possible, the Servais Society is looking for 35,000 euro.

[Check the web site to discover the various possibilities to support the cause.](#)

As a return, you could become one of the first guests in the newly restored Villa Servais!

With the support of the Villa Servais and the Deutsche Rossini Gesellschaft.



## AGENDA

**8-11.10.2020 - Brussels Cello Festival**

[More info.](#)

**14-17.04.2021 - Four days with Servais**

The Tansman Cello Quartet and Ann Van Hecke will give a four days training in Halle during the fourth edition of 'Four days with Servais'. [More info.](#)

**14-15.05.2021 - Cello Competition Sint-Pieters-Woluwe**

[More info.](#)