



## Newsletter Servais Society n° 68 - May 2022

**François Servais,**  
 the Paganini of the Cello

**EXPO**

9-21.05.2022  
 14.00 – 22.00 – closed on Sunday  
 FLAGEY – entrance hall  
 Heilig-Kruisplein | Place Sainte-Croix, 1050 Elsene | Ixelles  
 Free entry – vrije toegang – entrée libre – freier Eintritt

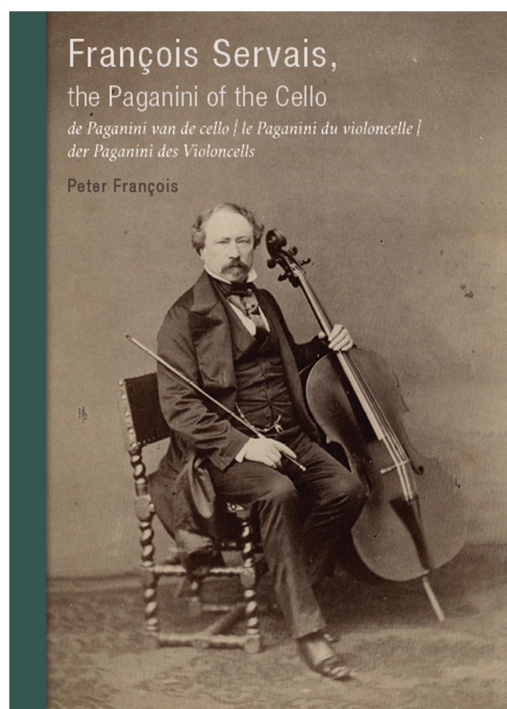
### EXPO 'FRANÇOIS SERVAIS, THE PAGANINI OF THE CELLO' (9-21 MAY)

François Servais (1807-1866) was a pioneering cellist, a European star and one of the founding fathers of the Belgian School of Cello Playing. He made music with Mendelssohn, Rossini and Vieuxtemps and was rated highly by Schumann, Meyerbeer and Berlioz. One and a half century after his death his virtuoso cello compositions still resound all over the world.

Come and discover his life and work at the exposition in the entrance hall of Flagey during the Queen Elisabeth International Cello Competition.

The exposition can be visited for free from 9 to 21 May, every day (except on Sunday) from 2 till 10 PM.

## NEW: BROCHURE 'FRANÇOIS SERVAIS, THE PAGANINI OF THE CELLO'



The brochure 'François Servais, the Paganini of the Cello' by Peter François presents Servais as a cellist, composer, travelling virtuoso, teacher and citizen of Halle.

The brochure has 40 pages of richly illustrated texts, in four languages. It's on sale during the exhibition in Flagey and can also be ordered through the **Servais Society** (10 euros + shipping).

## NEW: LEAFLET ABOUT SERVAIS

The Servais Society made a new leaflet about Servais in four languages to promote Halle and Servais internationally. The leaflet appears in an edition of 10,000 copies and is available for free in the Halle city museum and Tourist Office, in Villa Servais and through the Servais Society.

### Halle

Servais lived in the 'Villa Servais' in the city of his birth, Halle, 19 kilometers south of Brussels. So, too, did his granddaughter Misia Godebska.

Servais woonde in de 'Villa Servais' in zijn geboortestad Halle, 19 kilometer ten zuiden van Brussel. Ook zijn kleindochter Misia Godebska heeft er gewoond.

Servais résida à la 'Villa Servais' dans sa ville natale de Hal, à 19 kilomètres au sud de Bruxelles. Sa petite-fille Misia Godebska y a d'ailleurs également résidé.

Servais lebte in der 'Villa Servais' in seiner Geburtsstadt Halle, einer Provinzstadt 19 Kilometer südlich von Brüssel. Dort lebte auch seine Enkelin Misia Godebska.



© Erik Dierckx

**On offer:**



**Tourism - B&B Villa Servais**  
Servaislaan 6, B-1500 Halle  
[www.villaservais.be](http://www.villaservais.be)

### The Halle Servais Collection

The Halle Servais Collection is devoted to Servais and his descendants, the local music life and the Belgian School of Cello Playing. It comprises some thousands of scores, files, photographs and pictures, as well as records, CDs, objects and publications. A selection can be viewed at [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu).

De Halle Servaiscollectie is gewijd aan Servais en zijn nakomelingen, het Halse muziekleven en de Belgische Cello-school. Ze omvat duizenden partituren, archiefstukken, foto's en prenten, platen en cd's, voorwerpen en publicaties. Een selectie is te zien op [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu).

La Collection Servais à Hal est consacrée à Servais et à ses descendants, à la vie musicale de Hal et à l'Ecole belge du Violoncelle. Elle contient des milliers de partitions, de pièces d'archives, de photos et d'images, de disques et de CD, d'objets et de publications. Une sélection en est exposée sur [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu).

Die Hallenser Servais Sammlung ist Servais und seiner Familie, dem Musikleben von Halle und der Belgischen Celloschule gewidmet. Sie beinhaltet mehrere tausend Partituren, Archivdokumente, Photographien und Bilder, Tonaufnahmen, Objekte und Publikationen. Eine Auswahl ist einsehbar auf [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu).



**AST - Museum Halle**  
Museum 16, B-1500 Halle  
[www.dorachalle.be](http://www.dorachalle.be)

### Servais Society



The **Servais Society** wants to contribute to the study and propagation of Servais' life and work, and to promote the cello and its heritage.

De **vzw Servais** draagt bij tot de studie en de bekendmaking van Servais' leven en werk en promoot de cello en het cello-erfgoed.

L'Association **Servais** vise à stimuler l'étude de la vie et de l'œuvre de Servais, l'interprétation de ses compositions et assure la promotion du violoncelle et de son patrimoine.

Der **Servaisverein** möchte zur Erforschung und Verbreitung von Servais' Leben und Werk beitragen und das Cello und sein Erbe fördern.

✉ Groeningestraat 1, 1500 Halle, BELGIUM  
info@servais-vzw.org  
+32 (0)499 33 51 51  
[www.facebook.com/servaisociety](http://www.facebook.com/servaisociety)  
@servaisociety  
YouTube 'Servais Society'

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



**STAD HALLE**



**François Servais**  
1807-1866  
*The Paganini of the Cello*  
De Paganini van de cello / Le Paganini du violoncelle / Der Paganini des Violoncelles

## QUEEN ELISABETH COMPETITION FOR CELLO (9 MAY-4 JUNE)

152 cellists applied for the second Queen Elisabeth International Competition for cello. They



had to join a video of one of the 6 Etudes of François Servais. The following 60 talents came to Belgium for the first round:



[More info about the Competition](#)

The Servais Society organizes an exposition about Servais during the first round and semi finals.

## COMING SOON: 150 YEARS OF MISIA (6 JUNE)

Misia Godebska was the grand-daughter of the Belgian cellist François Servais. She was a key figure in the French music world at the beginning of the 20th century.

**June 6, 2022 - 7.30 PM - Villa Servais**

**'Misia' (in Dutch)**

Katharina Smets (storyteller) and the ensemble Revue Blanche: Lore Binon (soprano), Caroline Peeters (flute), Kris Hellemans (violin), Anouk Sturtewagen (harp).



[More info](#)



## LOOKING BACK: 'MISIA, REINE DE PARIS'

On March 30, 2022 - exactly on Misia's 150th birthday - the performance 'Misia, Reine de Paris' took place. Actress Julie Depardieu took on the role of Misia, and flutist Juliette Hurel and pianist Hélène Couvert performed music inspired by Misia. The newly restored Villa Servais, where Misia spent part of her childhood, was the perfect setting.



## LOOKING BACK: NO WASABI

On March 31, the jazz duo No Wasabi gave a performance in Villa Servais. In addition to their own work, the duo also performed their own jazzy interpretations of a Caprice and Etude by Servais. .



they showed a fine example of their skills.

The five cellists also gave a four-day internship to 27 cellists from Belgium and France at the Campus Servais of the Halle Kunstacademie. The participants got masterclasses and also had the unique opportunity to play in a cello ensemble. In addition, they were immersed in the history of Servais and his hometown, Halle.

## LOOKING BACK: 'FOUR DAYS WITH SERVAIS' (13-16 April 2022)



## LOOKING BACK: 'FOUR DAYS WITH SERVAIS' (13-16 April 2022)

From 13 to 16 April 2022, the fourth 'Four days with Servais' took place in Halle. The four cellists of the Tansman Cello Quartet - Marinela Doko, Fernando Lima, Didier Poskin and Karel Steylaerts - once again resided in Halle, this time together with Ann Van Hecke. During the 27th Servais Concert on April 13,

During the closing concert on April 16, they showed the result of four days of hard work. The four chamber music groups performed one by one with work by Haydn, Schubert, Dvorak and Schäffer. As an apotheosis, all cellists appeared on stage together with three works for cello orchestra. One of these was La Romanesca by François Servais, in a beautiful adaptation by Fernando Lima. As a closing sound I'm in another world by Duke Ellington. The four-day event was a unique experience for the cellists and an opportunity for the public to discover the cello in various facets.

**SERVAIS URTEXT SERIES**





The Servais Society and Cellist Yuri Leonovich started with a series of Urtext editions of Servais' compositions. Not only the cello-piano version will be published, but also the version for cello and quintet. The digital versions are obtainable via [www.yuriyleonovich.com](http://www.yuriyleonovich.com) and the distinguished printed versions via the Servais Society.

**New (April 2022): Souvenir de Spa, opus 2 (cello-piano)**

[More info](#)

## AGENDA

### 09-21.05.2022 - Expo 'François Servais, the Paganini of the Cello'

In Flagey, during the first round and semi-finals of the International Queen Elisabeth Competition for Cello. [More info.](#)

### 09.05-04.06.2022 - International Queen Elisabeth Competition for Cello

[Website of the Competition.](#)

### 05.06.2022 - Hommage concert to Elisa de Try in Lille

The concert association Chambre à Part in Lille organizes a concert in commemoration of Servais' student Elisa de Try (1846-1922). [More info.](#)

### 06.06.2022 - Misia 150 years

'Misia' by Revue Blanche in Villa Servais (in Dutch). [More info.](#)

### 27.11.2022 - 28th Servais Concert

With one of the laureats of the Queen Elisabeth Competition for Cello, in CC 't Vondel Halle.