



Newsletter Servais Society n° 73 - November 2023

COMING UP: 30th SERVAIS CONCERT '20 YEARS SERVAIS SOCIETY' (26 NOV.)

The University Symphony Orchestra of KU Leuven can shine in Halle with Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony and Beethoven's Fidelio.

But the highlight will be the performance of Servais' Fantasy on themes by Schubert, with Benjamin Glorieux as soloist. Order tickets now to be sure of a seat!



Servaisconcert 30

Universitair Symfonisch Orkest KU Leuven
o.l.v. Edmond Saveniers
Benjamin Glorieux, cello

20 jaar
vzw Servais

26.11.2023
19.30 uur

CC 't Vondel Halle
Possozplein 40, 1500 Halle
Tickets : www.vondel.be

Sunday, November 26, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

CC 't Vondel, Possozplein 40, 1500 Halle

€ 20 per person (Servais Society members: € 17)

Booking via www.vondel.be - 02 365 98 27

SERVAIS SOCIETY: 20 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF SERVAIS AND THE CELLO

In November 2023 the Servais Society will have existed for twenty years. Time to look back on two decades of Servais' activities. The central figure here is François Servais, who was born in Halle on June 6, 1807 and died there on November 26, 1866. For 33 years he toured Europe as one of the most important cello virtuosos of the nineteenth

century. He performed in more than 130 cities throughout Europe, became Kammervirtuos of the Austrian emperor, was a guest at the Danish court, with the Russian tsar and even with the sultan of Turkey. As a teacher at the Brussels Conservatory, he is part of the foundation of the Belgian School of Cello playing. Servais' compositions are still rehearsed, performed and recorded all over the world.



A busy schedule in home base Halle

And yet we may say that in 2003 Servais in Halle was almost completely forgotten. The Festival Servais 2007, on the occasion of Servais' bicentennial, was a first initiative to change this. Right from the start the Society gladly cooperated with the Halle associations and organizations. Over the past twenty years, this included almost all choirs and orchestras - ten in total - as well as two theater associations, five art and photography associations, four socio-cultural associations, a beer association, museum den AST, Tourism Halle and the Art Academy. And very recently the folkloristic association 'Confrérie van de Vaantjesboer': on the occasion of 20 years of Servais Society, the statue of the Vaantjesboer - personification of the people of Halle, the 'Halle Mannekenpis' - was dressed up as Servais.

On November 26, 2006 the Servais Society organized the first "Servais Concert" in Halle together with cultural center 't Vondel. Since then, numerous Belgian and foreign artists came to Halle to pay tribute to Servais and to the cello: Viviane Spanoghe, Seeli Toivio, Alexander Hülshoff, Luc Tooten, the Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, Sarah Dupriez, the Rastrelli Cello Quartet, Didier Poskin, Wen-Sinn Yang, Gavriel Lipkind, the Tansman Quartet, Yutaka Hayashi and Hayoung Choi, to name but a few. The thirtieth Servais Concert will take

place on Sunday, November 26, 2023, with the University Symphonic Orchestra of KU Leuven and Benjamin Glorieux as soloist. All those concerts of course featured music by Servais. A "Servais Walk" was also regularly organized to introduce the public to Servais' hometown, as well as six cello courses. The seventh will take place from April 11 to 14, 2024, during the fifth Cello Days with Servais.



October 1, 2023 - godparenthood little Vaantjesboer (photo by Jean-Marie Demol)

From the very beginning, the non-profit organization worked for the restoration and cultural interpretation of the Villa Servais, Servais' former home. It is a great relief that for two years now the Villa is once again fulfilling a prominent cultural and culinary role, just like in Servais' time.

In twenty years, the Servais Society organized 145 activities in Halle and collaborated in another 128 initiatives of others. The association received the Halle "Culture Devil" in 2007 and 2019, a trophy for cultural merit awarded by the associations affiliated with the Halle Cultural Council.

(Inter)national operation

But because Servais was and still is a citizen of the world, the Servais Society is also often active outside Halle. Thus the association was regularly involved in concerts, lectures, exhibitions and other initiatives in Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Leuven and Liège, and in some fifty other municipalities throughout Belgium. In 2007 and 2009 the Servais Society co-organized the 'International Cello Competition Servais' in Halle and Ghent, and between 2016 and 2019 the Edmond Baert Cello Competition in Sint-Pieters-Woluwe (Brussels). The non-profit organization has also been involved in the Queen Elisabeth cello competition since

2017. The more than 200 cellists from around the world who wanted to participate in the 2022 edition all had to send in a video recording of an Etude by Servais.

The association is also regularly engaged in promoting Servais' life and work beyond the country's borders. For instance, the association already had a promotional stand during the Amsterdam Cello Biennale six times for ten days and was also present with a stand during multi-day festivals in Krakow, Paris and Beijing. The Servais Society participated in concerts in Amsterdam, Bergamo, Berlin, Helsinki, Krakow, Maastricht, Moscow, Nagoya, Osaka, Paris, Beijing, Prague, Lille and Seoul, among others. President Peter François gave lectures in Amsterdam, Briançon, The Hague, Krakow, La Spezia, Leipzig, Moscow, Paris, Beijing and Teignmouth.



Promotion of Servais in Beijing

All in all, the Servais Society was already involved in 640 activities in 175 cities in 22 countries. The promotion of Servais' life and work never stops, so many more will undoubtedly follow.

Publications and Servais Collection

But the concerts and other activities are only one part of the operation. In addition, the organization also collects as much information as possible about Servais' life and compositions, which it shares with the general public through an extensive quadrilingual website and numerous publications. The Servais Society also republishes scores by Servais. Already 42 editions have been published and several are in preparation. In collaboration with

den AST the Servais Collection is being further developed. Through purchases and donations the Society has been able to add 183 documents, 629 scores, 101 sound carriers, 211 pictures, 215 publications and 40 objects. The collection is indispensable for the service to musicians and researchers, many hundreds of whose questions have already been answered. It also comes in handy in the construction of exhibitions, such as in 2007 at the Oude Post in Halle and in 2017 and 2022 at Flagey during the Queen Elisabeth Competition. A subsequent expo will run from May 18 to June 9, 2024 at the Oude Post in Halle.

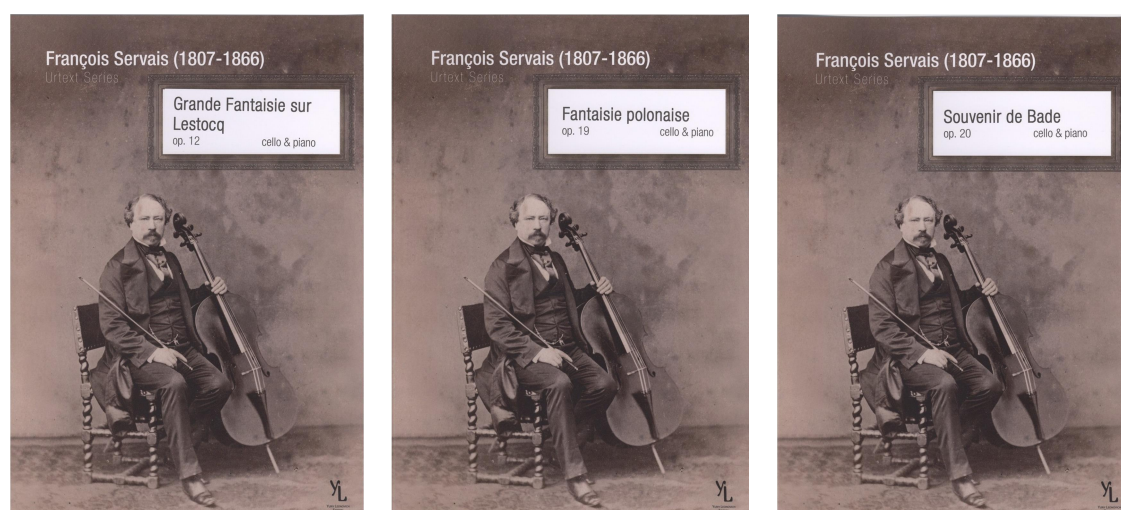
The operation of the Servais Society relies entirely on volunteers. Helping hands are welcomed with open arms. Please contact chairman Peter François at info@servais-vzw.org.

NEW EDITIONS IN THE SERVAIS URTEXT SERIES

In the October newsletter we were able to announce no less than sixteen new editions for the Servais Urtext series. Meanwhile, eight more have been published:

- Fantaisie Caractéristique sur deux célèbres Romances de Lafont, opus 8 (cello & piano)
- Grande Fantaisie sur l'Opéra Lestocq, opus 12 (cello & piano)
- Grande Fantaisie polonaise, opus 19 (cello & piano)
- Souvenir de Bade, opus 20 (cello & piano)
- Fantaisie sur des Airs Scandinaves (cello & piano)
- Somneniye (Glinka) (cello & piano)
- Les Regrets (Joseph Gregoir) (cello & piano)
- Souvenir d'Anvers (cello & quintet) edition of manuscript!

More info and ordering



CELLO MASTERCLASSES SERVAIS 2024: REGISTER NOW!

From April 11 to 14, 2024, members of the Tansman Cello Quartet and Ann Van Hecke will

once again come to Halle for a cello masterclass.

Are you at the beginning of your career, still studying or an enthusiastic amateur? Come to Halle for a unique experience!

More info and registration



Final concert Cello Four Days April 16, 2022

LOOKING BACK:SPONSORSHIP LITTLE VAANTJESBOER (1 October)

On October 1, 2023, the Servais Society took up the sponsorship of the 'little Vaantjesboer' on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the society. The costume was solemnly unveiled during the second 'Vontjesstoet' (a parade), an initiative of the 'Confrérie van de Vaantjesboer'. The Koninklijke Sint-Martinusfanfare and the Koninklijke Harmonie Sinte-Cecilia Halle graced the celebration.

The costume was also displayed during the Cultural Festival on Oct. 28 and will also be on display at the Servais Expo at the Old Post (May 18 to June 9, 2024).



AGENDA

26.11.2023 - 30th Servais Concert

Performance by the University Symphonic Orchestra of RO Leuven conducted by Edmond Saveniers. Soloist: Benjamin Glorieux. In cc 't Vondel, 7:30 p.m.

09.12.2023 - Champagne action Villa Servais

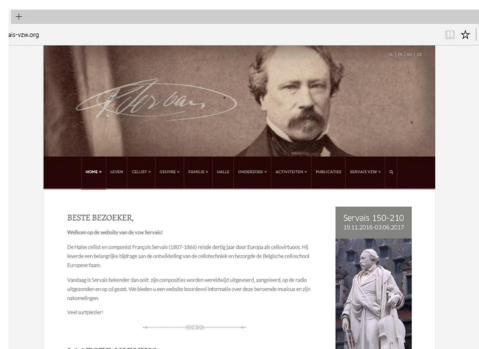
On December 9 the Servais Society will help at the collection moment of the champagne action of Villa Servais.

11-14.04.2024 - Fifth 'Four days with Servais'

Cello masterclasses with the Tansman Quartet and Ann Van Hecke. 31st Servais concert on April 11 and closing concert on April 14.

18.05-09.06.2024 - Expo 'François Servais, the Paganini of the Cello'

At the Old Post Office in Halle.



VISIT THE SERVAIS WEBSITE!

Through the web site

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Contact:
[e-mail](#)