

***Amsterdam Sinfonietta
Concert Programmes
2012-2013***



For more information and bookings please contact:
Joost Westerveld, general manager
joostwesterveld@sinfonietta.nl
+31-(0)20-52 70 770

Amsterdam Sinfonietta & Candida Thompson *artistic director*

2012-2013 Season

A Selection of Projects

Patricia Kopatchinskaja

Concert options 29 September - 14 October 2012

Mischa Maisky

Concert options 7 - 13 October 2012

Sol Gabetta

Concert options 25 - 30 October 2012

Up-close - Michel van der Aa

Concert options 9 - 18 November 2012

Dejan Lazić

Concert options 29 November - 7 December 2012

Ronald Brautigam

Concert options 8 - 17 February 2013

Anthony Marwood & Quirine Viersen

Concert options 14 - 24 March 2013

Martin Fröst

Concert options 18 - 30 April 2013

Sol Gabetta

Concert options 9 - 19 August 2013

Patricia Kopatchinskaja

Concert options 29 September – 14 October 2012

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson, artistic director & lead violin

Patricia Kopatchinskaja, violin

Programme 1:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| J. Brahms | <i>Choral Preludes</i> |
| T. Mansurian | <i>Four Serious Songs (after Brahms)</i> |
| M. Ravel | <i>Tzigane (new version for violin, cimbalom and string orchestra)</i> |
| J. Brahms | <i>String Quintet opus 111 (version for string orchestra)</i> |



Programme 2:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| J. Brahms | <i>Choral Preludes</i> |
| F. Mendelssohn | <i>Violin Concerto in D minor</i> |
| M. Ravel | <i>Tzigane (new version for violin, cimbalom and string orchestra)</i> |
| J. Brahms | <i>String Quintet opus 111 (version for string orchestra)</i> |

The Armenian composer Tigran Mansurian wrote his Four Serious Songs for violin and string orchestra after the four biblical songs of Johannes Brahms. Patricia Kopatchinskaja is a strong advocate for Mansurian's work. The beautiful autumn colours of String Quintet opus 111 by Brahms are combined with hot gypsy sounds by Ravel's smashing hit.

Mischa Maisky

Concert options 7 – 13 October 2012

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson, *artistic director & lead violin*

Mischa Maisky, *cello*

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| J. Brahms | <i>String Quintet opus 111</i> |
| L. Boccherini | <i>Cello Concerto in D</i> |
| P. Locatelli | <i>Locatelli Concerto Grosso 7/6</i> |
| C.W. Gluck | <i>Danza Degli Spettri e Delle Furie</i> |
| J. Haydn | <i>Cello Concerto in C</i> |



The reputation of Boccherini rivalled that of Haydn, if the nickname 'the wife of Haydn' may be accepted as evidence of contemporary fame. He was a virtuoso cellist and worked first in his native Lucca and then in Vienna. His famous three-movement symphony called 'House of the Devil' is full of furiously driven scalar figures in full staccato. In the last movement the Devil's inhabitants leap out at us with ghoulish abandon through mordantly extended harmonies, jarring syncopated figures, and cuttingly shrill high notes from the oboes. Boccherini's noble and cellistic background sings through in his Cello Concerto in D major, one of Mischa Maisky's all-time favourite concertos. Brahms's admiration for the classical master Haydn is apparent in his tribute entitled *Haydn Variations*. This programme features one of Brahms's last compositions. The wonderful Quintet opus 111 is dominated by autumnal colours and Hungarian *schwung*. The programme concludes with one of Haydn's biggest hits ever.

Born in 1948 in Latvia, Mischa Maisky began his first music lessons in Riga at the Children's Music School and Conservatoire. In 1962 he entered the Leningrad Conservatoire. In 1965 his debut with the Leningrad Philharmonic earned him the nickname 'Rostropovich of the Future'. One year later he became prize-winner at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and began his studies with Rostropovich at the Moscow Conservatoire. Later Maisky also studied with Piatigorsky and won first prize at the Casado Competition. A true world-class musician and regular guest at most major international festivals, he has collaborated with conductors such as Leonard Bernstein, Carlo Maria Giulini, James Levine, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Daniel Barenboim and his partnerships have included the artists Martha Argerich, Radu Lupu, Gidon Kremer, Yuri Bashmet, Vadim Repin, Maxim Vengerov and Janine Jansen, to name just a few.

Sol Gabetta

Concert options 25 – 30 October 2012

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson, *artistic director & lead violin*

Sol Gabetta, *cello*

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| H.I.F. Biber | <i>Battalia</i> |
| C.P.E. Bach | <i>Symphony for strings</i> |
| P. Vasks | <i>New concerto for cello and string orchestra (approx. 20 min.)</i> |
| B. Bartók | <i>Divertimento</i> |
| C.P.E. Bach | <i>Cello Concerto in A</i> |



In the autumn of 2012 Amsterdam Sinfonietta will make a European tour with a world première by the Latvian composer Peteris Vasks. The Argentinian cellist Sol Gabetta will perform a newly written cello concerto by this 'neo-Romantic' composer. This commissioned work will be coupled with C.P.E. Bach's A major Cello concerto, an exciting example of the *Sturm und Drang* (Storm and Stress) style, displaying violent contrasts of emotion and rapidly changing tempos and dynamics.

Biber and Bartók, passionate composers of central European origin, both display superb and sometimes even violent string orchestra writing. *Battalia* – a surprisingly modern work stemming from 1673 – depicts a group of soldiers, first drunken, then marching off to battle. The episode ends with a mournful *Lamento* for the dead. Just before Bartók fled to escape the Second World War he wrote his explosive 'concerto grosso' entitled *Divertimento*. The result is a colourful mix of Hungarian folk dance, a pastiche on a Wiener Pizzicato Polka and a grinding fugue.

Up-close - Michel van der Aa

Concert options 9 – 18 November 2012

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson, *artistic director & lead violin*

t.b.d. *cello*

M. van der Aa *Up-close for cello, string ensemble and film projection*

B. Dean *Carlo for string ensemble and tape*

C. Gesualdo *Arranged madrigals*

'Up-close' earns rave reviews across Europe



[Sol Gabetta, Amsterdam Sinfonietta]

Up-close, Michel van der Aa's multimedia cello concerto for Sol Gabetta and the Amsterdam Sinfonietta, received its world première on 11th March at the Konserthuset in Stockholm to great critical acclaim. It was described in Sweden's Dagens Nyheter newspaper as '*A work that captivates from beginning to end*'. Commissioned by ECHO, the European Concert Hall Association, Up-Close was subsequently performed in five more European cities – Luxembourg, Brussels, Amsterdam, London and Hamburg – in just over a week, earning plaudits throughout the tour: '*Brilliant, sensual, virtuosic*' (La Libre, Belgium), '*wonderful music*' (Trouw, Netherlands), '*hauntingly beautiful*' (Guardian, UK), '*an exciting, complex dialogue between film, electronics and live music*' (Hamburger Abendblatt, Germany).

Scored for solo cello, strings, electronics and film, *Up-close* creates a dialogue between the live performance of a female cellist on stage and an elderly lady on film screen. Sounds from the film escape and intertwine with the music on the concert platform, drawing the two women ever closer but never quite bringing them together in an abstract drama whose theme is the rituals and trials of communication.

Brett Dean likewise portrays the story of a woman. With inventive means Dean portrays the mystical life of the noble composer Carlo Gesualdo, who in 1590 murdered his own wife Maria d'Avolos and her lover, Don Fabrizio Carafa, Duke of Andria. *Carlo* starts with pure Gesualdo. On tape, one hears the opening chorale from *Moro lasso*, one of his most famous compositions, taken from his *6th Book of Madrigals*. Following the tragically sinking chromatic line of this opening, a pre-recorded vocal collage unfolds.

Gradually the orchestra becomes involved in this process, at first displacing the taped quotes from *Moro lasso* with other Gesualdo motives, and eventually leading us to altogether more 20th-century realms of sound. These gradually develop in dramatic intensity into what may be seen as an orchestral echo of that fateful night in Naples on the 26th October 1590.



Dejan Lazić

Concert options 29 November – 7 December 2012

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson, *artistic director & lead violin*

Dejan Lazić, *piano*

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| D. Shostakovich | <i>Piano Concerto no. 1</i> |
| J. Haydn | <i>Piano Concerto in D</i> |
| L. Beethoven | <i>String Quartet opus 74 'Harp Quartet' (new arrangement for string orchestra)</i> |



The Croatian pianist Dejan Lazić is one of the most promising pianists of his generation. Amsterdam Sinfonietta and Dejan Lazić will perform Shostakovich's Piano Concerto no. 1 and Haydn's all-time favourite: his Concerto in D. Lazić explores the common ground between the two composers; which features differentiate them and which unite them? His musical quest reveals an unexpected new dimension of the established repertoire. Beethoven's opus 74 owes its nickname to its many harp-like gestures. This quartet unifies romantic intimacy with symphonic outbursts.

Ronald Brautigam

Concert options 8 – 17 February 2013

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson, *artistic director & lead violin*

Ronald Brautigam, *fortepiano*

A. Webern *Five pieces for string orchestra*

W.A. Mozart *Piano Concerto in C KV 415*

W.F. Bach *Piano Concerto in F minor*

W.A. Mozart *Symphony in C KV 425 Linzer*



Admirers of Wilhelm Friedemann Bach consider him in many ways the most original and interesting of the great Johann Sebastian's composer-sons. His music generally fell into the transitional period between Baroque and Classical styles, but it was distinctive and personal in style. His Concerto in F minor, a true masterpiece, is an exceptional example of this transitional period. Mozart's early Concerto in C major is also heavily influenced by the Baroque style. His Linzer Symphony in C major was written in the same year but already breathes the grandeur of the later symphonies. The entire symphony was written in four days to accommodate the local count's announcement of a concert.

Ronald Brautigam, one of Holland's leading musicians, is remarkable not only for his virtuosity and musicality but also for the eclectic nature of his musical interests. He studied in Amsterdam, London and the United States of America - with Rudolf Serkin. In 1984 he was awarded the Netherlands Music Prize, the highest Dutch musical award. Ronald Brautigam performs regularly with leading European orchestras under distinguished conductors such as Riccardo Chailly, Bernard Haitink, Frans Brüggen, Philippe Herreweghe and Ivan Fischer. Besides his performances on modern instruments Ronald Brautigam has developed a great passion for the fortepiano. In 1995 Ronald Brautigam began what has proved a highly successful association with the Swedish label BIS. Among the more than 30 titles released are the highly acclaimed recordings of all Mendelssohn's Piano Concertos with Amsterdam Sinfonietta.

Anthony Marwood & Quirine Viersen
Concert options 14 – 24 March 2013

Amsterdam Sinfonietta
Anthony Marwood, *lead violin and soloist*
Quirine Viersen, *cello*



- | | |
|-------------|--|
| A. Corelli | <i>Concerto Grosso</i> |
| W.A. Mozart | <i>Cello Concerto KV 314 (after the concerto for flute)</i> |
| M. Tippett | <i>Phantasy concertante on a theme of Corelli</i> |
| R. Schumann | <i>Violin Concerto opus 129 (after the concerto for cello)</i> |

Anthony Marwood is one of the most versatile European musicians. Not only is he the former violinist of the pre-eminent Florestan Piano Trio, he has also premièred a new violin concerto of Thomas Ades. In addition he regularly leads chamber orchestras such as the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. Marwood will perform a version of Schumann's cello concerto in a special arrangement for violin and strings.

The Dutch cellist Quirine Viersen was a prize winner at the Rostropovich Competition in Paris and the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Since her debut with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra she has enjoyed a non-stop career. She regularly teams up with chamber music partners such as Silke Avenaus, Antje Weithaas and Leonidas Kavakos. In this programme she will perform a rarely heard arrangement by George Szell of Mozart's flute concerto.

Martin Fröst

Concert options 18 – 30 April 2013

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson, *artistic director & lead violin*

Martin Fröst, *clarinet*

Programme 1:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| E. Korngold | <i>Lento religioso</i> |
| A. Copland | <i>Clarinet Concerto</i> |
| Traditional | <i>Klezmer dances</i> |
| F. Hogberg | <i>New work 'Silence without Purpose' for film, clarinet and strings (approx.10')</i> |
| O. Messiaen | <i>Abîme des oiseaux for solo clarinet</i> |
| D. Shostakovich | <i>Chamber Symphony opus 110a</i> |

Programme 2:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| E. Korngold | <i>Lento religioso</i> |
| A. Weber | <i>Clarinet Concerto no.1</i> |
| J. Brahms | <i>Hungarian dances for clarinet and strings</i> |
| S. Rachmaninoff | <i>Vocalise</i> |
| J. Brahms | <i>String Quintet opus 111 (for string orchestra)</i> |



Amsterdam Sinfonietta and the clarinetist Martin Fröst have enjoyed past collaborations. Their recording of Mozart's Clarinet concerto for BIS label sold over 100,000 copies. The project in April 2013 offers audiences a choice between a Classical-Romantic programme and a more adventurous one. Both programmes provide a balance between core repertoire and fresh, vivacious folk arrangements.

Sol Gabetta

Concert options 9 – 19 August 2013

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson, *artistic director & lead violin*

Sol Gabetta, *cello*

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| H.I.F. Biber | <i>Battalia</i> |
| C.P.E. Bach | <i>Symphony for strings</i> |
| P. Vasks | <i>New concerto for cello and string orchestra (approx. 20 min.)</i> |
| B. Bartók | <i>Divertimento</i> |
| C.P.E. Bach | <i>Cello Concerto in A</i> |



In 2012 Amsterdam Sinfonietta will make a European tour with a world première by the Latvian composer Peteris Vasks. The Argentinean cellist Sol Gabetta will perform a newly written cello concerto by this 'neo-Romantic' composer. This commissioned work will be coupled with C.P.E. Bach's A major Cello Concerto, an exciting example of the *Sturm und Drang* (Storm and Stress) style, displaying violent contrasts of emotion and rapidly changing tempos and dynamics.

Biber and Bartók, passionate composers of East European origin, both display superb and sometimes even violent string orchestra writing. *Battalia* - a surprisingly modern work stemming from 1673 – depicts a group of soldiers, first drunken, then marching off to battle. The episode ends with a mournful *Lamento* for the dead. Just before Bartok fled to escape the Second World War he wrote his explosive 'concerto grosso' called *Divertimento*. The result is a colourful mix of Hungarian folk dance, a pastiche on a Wiener Pizzicato Polka and a grinding fugue.