



"Fiddler and Cellist 1" by Nel Erasmus

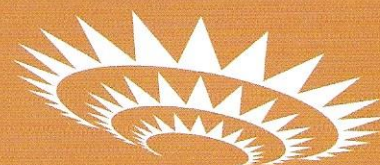
THE CAPE TOWN PHILHARMONIC
PRESENTS

13TH INTERNATIONAL

SMTF

SUMMER
MUSIC
FESTIVAL

'19



CAPE TOWN
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

THE CAPE TOWN
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS



CAPE TOWN
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Beethoven

SYMPHONY NO. 6, "PASTORAL"

INTERVAL

Brahms

PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1

Thursday, 14 February 2019

Cape Town City Hall, 20:00

Conductor/Dirigent

VICTOR YAMPOLSKY

Soloist/Solis

BEN SCHOEMAN (piano/klavier)

Guest Concertmaster/Genooide Konsertmeester

SUZANNE MARTENS

*****Please switch off your cellphone*****

The taking of photographs in the auditorium is forbidden and the recording of any performance or part thereof is illegal.

Ben Schoeman

The winner of the 11th UNISA Vodacom International Piano Competition in 2008, Ben Schoeman went on to win several more, including the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Music (2011) and the contemporary music prize at the Cleveland International Piano Competition in 2013.

Other major prizes include the gold medal and Lorna Viol prize in the Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition, London (2009), the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Music (2011) and the contemporary music prize at the Cleveland International Piano Competition, USA (2013). In 2016, he was awarded the Huberte Rupert Prize by the South African Academy of Arts and Sciences for his contribution to music in his native country.

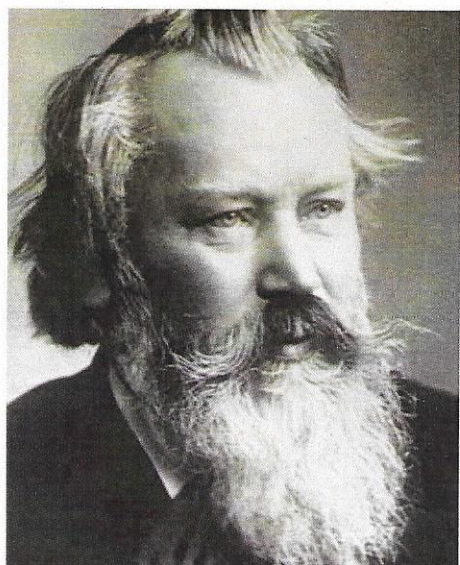
He has given solo, chamber music and concerto performances throughout Europe, Canada, the USA and South Africa in such prestigious concert halls as the Wigmore, Barbican, Cadogan and Queen Elizabeth Halls in London, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Gulbenkian Auditorium in Lisbon, Teatro del Giglio in Lucca, and the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest. He has performed at festivals in London, the Edinburgh Fringe, King's Lynn and Chester Festivals in the UK, the Festival da Bach à Bartók and Festival Mario Ghislandi in Italy, George Enescu Festival in Romania and the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival in Canada. He has also performed in South Africa's National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, KKNK and Woordfees.

He has performed several times with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra in the City Hall, and his acclaimed rendition of Liszt's Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 2 with the CPO are frequently broadcast on television. He has appeared as soloist in Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand and Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1 with the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Hall in London. He has collaborated with many conductors including Nicholas Cleobury, James Judd, Gérard Korsten, Theodore Kuchar, En Shao, Yasuo Shinozaki, Arjan Tien and Conrad van Alphen. He also regularly collaborates with pianist Tessa Uys and flautist Dawid Venter.

In collaboration with his duo partner, cellist Anzél Gerber, Ben Schoeman was awarded the first prize in the Ibla Grand Prize Competition in Italy. The duo performed at Carnegie Hall in New York and has received the gold medal in the Global Music Awards for their recording of music by Anton Rubinstein. The eminent South African composer Stefans Grové dedicated his Concerto for Piano, Cello and Orchestra "Bushman Prayers" (2013) to Gerber and Schoeman, and they premiered the work with the Cape Town and KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestras.

Schoeman studied at the University of Pretoria, the International Piano Academy in Imola, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole. His teachers include Michel Dalberto, Louis Lortie, Ronan O'Hora, Boris Petrushansky, Joseph Stanford and Eliso Virsaladze. In 2016, he obtained a doctorate in music from City, University of London and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama with a thesis entitled "The Piano Works of Stefans Grové (1922-2014): A Study of Stylistic Influences, Technical Elements and Canon Formation in South African Art Music". His doctoral studies were supervised by Christopher Wiley and supported by the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, the National Research Foundation, the Wingate Scholarships, the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers and the Drake Calleja Trust. Schoeman's solo album, featuring works of Franz Liszt, has been released by TwoPianists Records and is distributed worldwide through Naxos Global.

PROGRAMME



Johannes Brahms

1833 – 1897

PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1 IN D MINOR, OP. 15

Maestoso • Adagio • Rondo: Allegro non troppo

In March 1854, Brahms (then 21) travelled to Cologne to hear Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. It had a great impact on him, and he was inspired to write a sonata for two pianos in the same key, D Minor. Work progressed reasonably well, but doubts set in, and Brahms wrote to his friend Josef Joachim that he needed something bigger. His thoughts turned to a concerto, and two years later he was sending drafts of the score to Joachim. The official premiere in Hanover took place in January 1859, with Brahms as soloist and Joachim conducting. Brahms was 24.

The magnificent first movement begins with dramatic chords from the orchestra and thundering timpani as the main theme is hammered out. The music subsides briefly for a second idea before the opening comes crashing back. Yet another idea is born, and it is this idea which the piano picks up for its entrance. The piano soon rises to repeat the opening main theme with dramatic trills, which emphasise the feeling of unease. Later on, the key changes to the major for the lyrical and memorable second subject, which the piano introduces alone. This material is worked out at considerable length and with tremendous drama before a mighty coda brings the movement to a close.

The original second movement which Brahms wrote for this concerto became the second movement of his German requiem. In its place, Brahms has given us an adagio of ecclesiastical intensity and beauty with the words "Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini" inscribed on the score. Two beautiful themes are introduced on muted strings and clarinets respectively, and developed lyrically. The mood is tranquil and contemplative, with occasional arabesques colouring the musical landscape.

The finale opens with a buoyant theme on the piano, which the orchestra picks up, followed by various themes. The rondo displays some Hungarian influence. A Beethoven-like fugue passage is played by the strings, before the music moves to its triumphant coda.

PROGRAMME NOTES: RODNEY TRUDGEON

Cape Town Concert Series



Alexander Gilman & Marina Selteneich

Season 1
2019

23
February

Baxter Concert Hall
19:30

Beethoven: Sonata for Violin and Piano No.1 in D, Op. 12

Piazzolla "Le Grand Tango"

Prokofiev: Five Melodies, Op. 35b

Franck: Sonata for violin and piano