KZN
PHILHARMONIC
Making music together.

WORLD SYMPHONY SERIES

EARLY SPRING SEASON 2017

PROGRAMME

31 | AUG 2017

KZN PHILHARMONIC
Making music together

7:30pm, Durban City Hall

PROGRAMME

WEBER	Overture and March from *Turandot*, Op 37	6′
MOZART	Piano Concerto No. 20 in d minor (K466)	30′
	Interval	
SCHUMANN	Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 97, "Rhenish"	32′

CONDUCTOR: Wolfram Christ

SOLOIST: Ben Schoeman, piano

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART | 1756-1791

Piano Concerto No. 20 in d minor, K. 466 (1785)

Movements:
I. Allegro
II. Romanze
III. Allegro assai

Playing in the Orchestra: 1 flute, 2 oboes, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, timpani and strings

Although Mozart composed many excellent piano concerti, Piano Concerto No. 20 stands out as one of the finest. It holds the distinction of being the only one of Mozart's concerti that Beethoven performed, with his own cadenza, during his career as a soloist. It was also greatly admired by Johannes Brahms and Clara Schumann, who also each composed their own cadenzas for it. So what made this concerto stand out so markedly from Mozart's many other piano works?

Firstly, the use of the minor tonality was extremely rare for a Mozart concerto; this is one of only two of his piano concerti in a minor key. Secondly, Mozart's extensive use of non-harmonic tones in this piece shows a level of harmonic inventiveness that virtually presages the musical developments of the romantic period by at least 30 years. But it is not just the harmonic interest of the piece that helps it to stand out. The drama and energy as well as the musical artistry elevate this concerto far beyond the typical flashy showpiece.

The first movement begins with an orchestral introduction reminiscent of a symphony rather than a concerto. A syncopated motif slowly develops into the first theme in a dramatic d minor. The drama only increases when the piano enters with a new theme, also in d minor and continues to build up to the cadenza.

The second movement is specifically referred to by the composer as a *Romanze*. This movement, set in B flat major, begins quite peacefully before delving into deeper, more emotional music. The brisk finale begins with the piano alone, making a return to the intense minor "storminess" of the first movement. However, as the music progresses, Mozart shifts to D major for an optimistic and fiery finish.

Programme Notes: © KZN Philharmonic

PLEASE NOTE: The use of cellphones, particularly texting and taking pictures, is prohibited during concerts, as the light may disturb other patrons.

WOLFRAM | **CHRIST**

Wolfram Christ, long-time first Principal Viola with the Berlin Philharmonic, Principal Viola of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra and Professor at Hochschule für Musik Freiburg, has become highly regarded as a conductor epitomising sincerity and musical integrity.

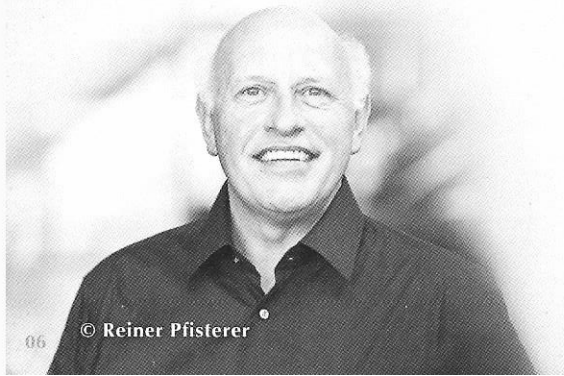
Praised for his exhilarating and sensitive interpretations, Wolfram Christ has already worked with orchestras on five continents, including the Munich and Scottish Chamber Orchestras, the Royal Danish Orchestra Copenhagen, the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Mozart of Bologna, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Basque National Orchestra San Sebastián, Simón Bolívar Orchestra Caracas, Auckland Philharmonia, KZN Philharmonic Orchestra Durban, Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra, the German Radio Philharmonic Saarbrücken, Camerata Madrid and the South West German Chamber Orchestra Pforzheim.

Between 2004 and 2008 Wolfram Christ was Principal Conductor of the Kurpfalz Chamber Orchestra Mannheim. Throughout this time he led the ensemble to a period of increased concert activity at home and abroad, and collaborated with internationally established soloists such as Sabine Meyer, Emmanuel Pahud, and Renaud Capuçon.

Wolfram Christ enjoys a long-term relationship with Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, and held the post of First Guest conductor of the ensemble from 2009 to 2013. Highlights from his tenure include appearances at the Schleswig-Holstein and Lucerne Festivals in 2011, an extended tour of South America in 2012 as well as a project with pianist Hélène Grimaud in 2013.

Released in early 2014 on the hänssler CLASSIC label, Wolfram Christ's recording of C.P.E. Bach's Hamburg Symphonies with Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra has received international critical acclaim and is widely regarded as the finest performance of these works. The disc has been described by Classics Today as "gripping… hands down, the best version of these remarkable pieces yet recorded" and as "interpreted with great sensitivity and bite, when necessary" by Presto Classical.

For further information please visit http://www.wolframchrist.de/.



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"Simply wonderful" – **Classics Today**

"His interpretation of Brahms's Second Symphony was a culmination of the Maestro's naturally sensitive skills. The climaxes were never forced and he created graceful moments by relaxing and allowing the breeze to flow through. The shaping of the last part was perfect. Christ here shared the secret to bringing delight."
- The Nihon Keizai Shimbun Newspaper, Kazuo Fujino

BEN | **SCHOEMAN**

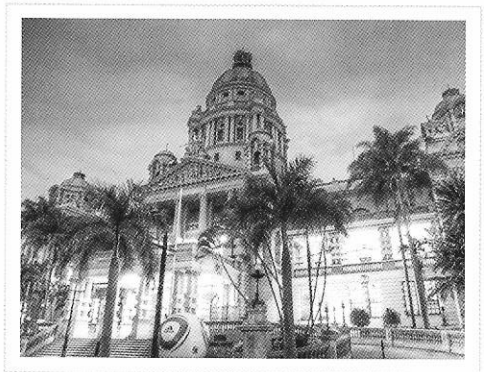
The South African pianist and Steinway Artist Ben Schoeman has won major prizes, including the first grand prize in the 11th UNISA Vodacom International Piano Competition, Pretoria (2008), the gold medal in the Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition, London (2009), the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Music (2011) and the contemporary music prize at the Cleveland International Piano Competition, USA (2013). In 2016, he was awarded the H Rupert Prize from the South African Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He has given solo, chamber music and concerto performances 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, Teatro Vittoria in Turin, the Durban and Cape Town City Halls and the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest. He has performed at many international festivals such as City of London, Edinburgh, Chester, Enescu Bucharest, Grahamstown and Ottawa. Recent appearances include performances of Ravel's *Concerto for the Left Hand* and Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1 at the Barbican Hall in London. His critically-acclaimed renditions of Liszt's Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 2 are frequently broadcast on South African national television. He has collaborated with numerous conductors, including Nicholas Cleobury, Carlos Izcaray, James Judd, Gérard Korsten, Theodore Kuchar, Diego Masson, En Shao, Yasuo Shinozaki and Conrad van Alphen.

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 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 premièred the work with the Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestras.

Ben Schoeman studied in Pretoria, Imola, Florence and London with 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 and 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'. Schoeman's solo album, featuring works of Franz Liszt, has been released by TwoPianists Records and is distributed worldwide through Naxos Global.

EVENTS



MORNING SYMPHONY

The final rehearsals for the Early Spring Symphony Season are open to the public and provide a glimpse into the preparation for a symphony concert. Join us each Symphony Season on Thursday at 10am in the Durban City Hall. Entrance is R30 for adults and R10 for scholars. Contact our offices on bookings@kznphil.org.za or 031 369 9438.

The final rehearsal is the perfect opportunity to introduce scholars to symphony concerts and also provides great outings for community groups and retirement homes. Please contact us to enquire about special rates and arrangements for groups. Please note there are no open rehearsals for vocal repertoires.

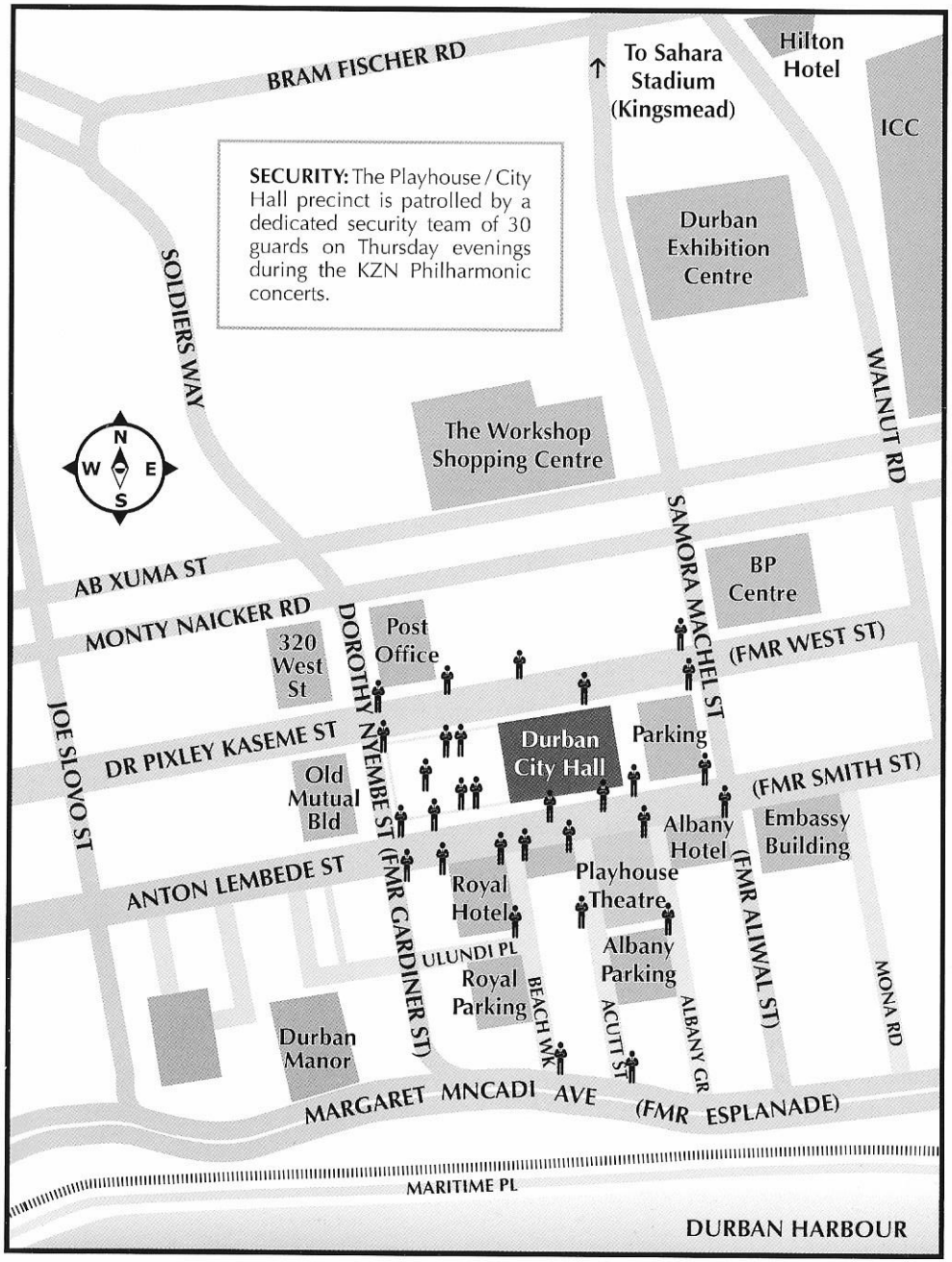
PRE-CONCERT LECTURES

Gain a deeper understanding of the music you are about to hear by attending the Friends of Music's pre-concert lectures.

Commencing at 6pm and running until 6:40pm, the lectures are held every Thursday evening during the Early Spring Season at the Durban City Hall.

PLEASE NOTE: there is no pre-concert lecture for tonight's concert (31st August).

Dr Teddy Pillay will be our speaker for the duration of the Season. Entry is just R10, and refreshments and light snacks may be purchased in the foyer after the talk.

SECURITY | PRECINCT

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