



Summer Season
2017

CRANS-MONTANA
CLASSICS



Concerts and
Master Classes

From August 1st,
to September 9th

ASSOCIATION DES COMMUNES | TOURISME & CONGRES

CRANS MONTANA 
Absolutely



Le Canton
du Valais
encourage
la culture
Der Kanton
Wallis
fördert Kultur



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*Music should raise the soul
above the feeling in which it is plunged.*

Friedrich Hegel



A word from Martial Kamerzin

*President of the Steering Committee
of the Association of Crans-Montana Municipalities*

Dear classical music lovers, citizens and guests,
artists, members of the public and friends,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to address you today. First and foremost, allow me to congratulate you on the exceptional quality of the 2017 programme. As is the case every year, thanks to a dedicated and dynamic Committee, the Crans-Montana Classics is all set to be a huge success.

My warmest congratulations to all those involved: the Committee, its backers, partners and the friends of the Festival, without forgetting the teams of volunteers without whose efforts events of this kind would not happen.

Every year, culture, music and classical concerts are all integral components of the exceptional cultural package on offer in Crans-Montana. Year after year, the Festival proposes new and enriching encounters against a spectacular natural backdrop and the 2017 summer edition will be no exception. It is a huge source of satisfaction to me since a destination such as this is continually nourished by all these moments of emotion, sharing and interactions, which have become a vital part of the cultural life of our Region over the years.

My sincerest thanks once again for all your hard work. I wish you all, artists and musicians, local and visiting music-lovers, a wonderful summer and an amazing Festival.



A word from Bruno Huggler

Director of Crans-Montana Tourism & Congress

Culture is undeniably one of the many attractions of Crans-Montana and few destinations have such a rich and diverse cultural package to offer. Culture in all its forms flourishes, sparkles and can be shared here. Its museums, art galleries, art centre and many concerts, shows, exhibitions and festivals have made Crans-Montana into a dynamic region, open to all forms of culture and art.

The Crans-Montana Classics is a vital component of this artistic package and both the guest artists and performances are always of the highest quality. The programme strives to be both varied and innovative and is always greatly appreciated by both visitors and local residents. The violin Master Classes have become a not-to-be-missed opportunity for the lucky young violinists who are given the opportunity to learn from the best teachers in the world.

Crans-Montana is extremely proud to once again host such immense talents and events from the classical music world for this year's summer edition, for the greatest happiness of music lovers from near and far.





Gérard Bagnoud

President

During his five years as President of the Crans-Montana Classics, Jean Bonvin worked tirelessly to drive the cultural development of the Haut-Plateau, putting his professional experience as a diplomat and his love of music to work on behalf of the Crans-Montana Festival. We will never forget how much we owe him. He set a very high standard before passing away in March of this year.

It is now my privilege to continue his mission. After first working to further golf on a national scale, I am now delighted to be able to put my passion for culture to good use on behalf of the region where I was born.

Crans-Montana Classics is proposing some original and hitherto unexplored musical encounters as part of its 2017 season: between classical music and world music, between experienced artists and very young talents.

Many musicians all over the world are already preparing to bring Crans-Montana alive musically this summer. New collaborations and synergies are being created to ensure our guests will have an eclectic and original programme.

The Crans-Montana Classics team is looking forward to welcoming you to the Haut-Plateau in August and would like to take this opportunity to thank its patrons, sponsors and friends for their generous and unfailing support.



Michael Guttman

Artistic Director

The musical summer will be hot

Dear friends of Crans-Montana Classics, While we may not be able to guarantee sunshine, even in summer, the Crans-Montana Classics can promise you a 2017 season full of warm musical moments.

Starting with the virtuosity of the Frères Gurfinkel clarinet duo, accompanied by fiery Georgian musicians from Ingolstadt (August 5th), followed by the exhilarating dances proposed by the extraordinary Sirba Octet from Paris (August 15th), the summer edition promises to be very exciting indeed. The return of the Cameristi from La Scala in Milan and of Shlomo Mintz, culminating with the Master Classes as the high point (August 12th), will delight regular New Year concertgoers - and there are many of them!

L'Âme du Monde (the Soul of the World), a performance combining music and literature, will take your breath away on August 13th. The Season ends on September 9th on yet another high note: for the first time on the Haut-Plateau, in collaboration with the Omega European Masters, the world famous violinist Nigel Kennedy will astound you by revealing, with his habitual incredible energy, his talents both as an improviser and composer.

Before that, Crans-Montana Classics will begin a new adventure on September 2nd, namely to bring music to the peak of Cry d'Er, welcoming choirs and instrumentalist groups from Valais and elsewhere to perform a rich and varied programme combining wind instruments, chants, gypsy jazz, a new take on Vivaldi's Four Seasons, which will be open to all thanks to free cable-cars for the whole day!

As I promised, the summer will be hot musically and we are looking forward to sharing it with you.

Musically yours,



THANK YOU

SUMMER SEASON 2017



TUESDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 7 PM, Hotel Crans Ambassador
Garden Party of the Swiss National Day
With the HOT CLUB DE BERNE, gipsy jazz quartet

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4TH, 8.30 PM, HOTEL ROYAL
Free concert of the Master Classes participants

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 8.30 PM, Orangerie d'Ycoor, Montana
GEORGIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA INGOLSTADT
Duo Daniel and Alexander GURFINKEL

MONDAY, 7 AUGUST 4TH, 8.30 PM, Hôtel Royal
Free concert of the Master Classes participants

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 4TH, 8.30 PM, Hôtel Royal
Free concert of the Master Classes participants

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 8.30 PM, Le Regent Congress Centre
In honor of Jean Bonvin
CAMERISTI DELLA SCALA, Milan
Shlomo MINTZ, violin
With the participation of the Master Classes participants

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 8.30 PM, Le Regent Congress Centre
The Soul of the World, based on the work of Frédéric Lenoir
Spectacle of Stéphane STAS with Laure BARRAS and Lina LUZZI

TUESDAY AUGUST 15TH, 8.30 PM, Le Regent Congress Centre
SIRBA OCTET - Tantz !

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 11 AM - 6 PM, Cry d'Er Club d'Altitude
Alti'Musique, 7 music groups at an altitude of 2200 meters

Save the date !

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

NIGEL KENNEDY AND BAND - from Bach to Jimmy Hendrix

Our heartiest thanks to our generous patrons
and sponsors for their exceptional support.

ASSOCIATION DES COMMUNES 11 TOURISME & CONGRES

CRANS MONTANA
Absolutely



DE PURY PICTET TURRETTINI & CO. LTD



SUMMER SEASON



VIOLIN MASTER CLASSES

open to the public and free

FROM TUESDAY, AUGUST 1ST TO THURSDAY, AUGUST 10TH

(except Sunday 6th), 4 to 7 pm, Hotel Royal

With the professors

Shlomo Mintz, Cihat Askin, Sonig Tchakerian et Sungsi Yang

**Free concerts of the Master Classes participants
Hôtel Royal**

Friday, August 4th, 8.30 pm

Monday, August 7th, 8.30 pm

Thursday, August 10th, 8.30 pm

A foretaste of the Winter Season

New Year's Gala Concert

Monday, January 1st, 2018, 5 pm Le Regent Congress Centre

Cameristi della Scala, Milan (65 musicians)

Sergey Smbatyan, conductor - Jan Lisiecki, piano

with the support of the Francis and Marie-France Minkoff Foundation



Tuesday, August 1st, 2017, 7 pm

Hotel Crans Ambassador *****

Garden Party of the Swiss National Day HOT CLUB DE BERNE

Gipsy jazz quartet

Vincent Millioud, violin

Charles Fréchette (special guest) and

Slawek Plizga, gipsy guitars

Valentin Von Fischer, double bass

Let yourself be pampered by the Crans Ambassador Team in an idyllic location. Enjoy a spectacular view on the water and fire show of the Swiss National Day on the Grenon Lake.

Price of the evening: CHF 180.-

Reservations directly at Hotel Crans Ambassador

Phone +4127-485 48 48



Friday, August 4th, 2017, 8.30 pm

Monday, August 7th, 2017, 8.30 pm

Thursday, August 10th, 2017, 8.30 pm

Hotel Royal

FREE CONCERTS of the Master Classes participants

Aged 13 to 25 all participants of the Master Classes 2017 have a very high musical level and will enchant their audience with their freshness and virtuosity. Most of them are laureates from international competitions.



Saturday August 5th, 2017, 8.30 pm

Orangerie d'Ycoor, Montana

OPENING CONCERT of the Summer Season

Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt

Ruben Gazarian, conductor

Daniel and Alexander Gurfinkel, clarinets

Program:

Franz Schreker:

Scherzo for string orchestra

Shlomo Gronich:

«Mosaic» for three clarinets and chamber orchestra

Camille Saint-Saëns:

«Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso» for two clarinets

Antonio Vivaldi:

«The Jazz Clarinets Seasons»

for two clarinets and string orchestra (arranged by A. Reznik)

Anton Arensky:

Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky, Op. 35a

These talented musicians with jazz trio (piano, bass and percussion) will open the Summer Season in a wonderful location : the ephemeral hall of l'Orangerie d'Ycoor in the centre of Montana.



Saturday, August 12th, 2017, 8.30 pm

Le Regent Congress Centre

CLOSING CONCERT of the Master Classes

As a tribute to Jean Bonvin, late President of CMClassics

Cameristi de la Scala, milan

Shlomo Mintz, violin

With the participation of the Master Classes participants

Program:

Sergueï Rachmaninov :

Vocalise

Antonio Vivaldi :

Concerto for three violins in F Major

Johann Sebastian Bach:

Concerto for two violins in D minor

Shlomo Mintz :

Overture «An Anthem of an unknown Nation»

Felix Mendelssohn :

Felix Mendelssohn: Symphony N° 4 « Italian »

You appreciate Maestro Shlomo Mintz's talents as a violinist, violist and conductor. Discover him now as a composer in a world premiere in Crans-Montana.



Sunday, August 13th, 2107, 8.30 pm

Le Regent Congress Centre

L'ÂME DU MONDE (The Soul of the World)

Based on the work of Frédéric Lenoir

In collaboration with Montagn'Arts

Stéphane Stas, texts and piano

Laure Barras, soprano

Lina Luzzi, cello

Imagine the most beautiful classic works, from Caccini to Fauré through Bach, Mozart, Schubert or Gounod. Imagine a hymn to wisdom and beauty which unifies spirit and heart... You will be enchanted by a suspended moment, on the border between music and spirituality in their most universal and timeless essence.

A first performance, more intimist, had a great success at Théâtre du Gymnase in Paris last April.



Tuesday, August 15th, 2017, 8.30 pm

Le Regent Congress Centre

TANTZ !

Sirba Octet

Richard Schmoucler, violin & artistic director

Christian Brière, violin

David Gaillard, viola

Claude Giron, cello

Bernard Cazauran, bass

Philippe Berrod, clarinet

Christophe Henry, piano

Iurie Morar, cymbalum

«Tantz! is the most accomplished of Sirba Octet's works. [...] A magnificent example of successful musical fusion. The whimsical nature of gypsy music and the precision of classical have never married so well. Surrender to its joyfulness where nostalgia is never far away.»

(Christian Merlin, Le Figaro)



Saturday, September 2nd, 2017, 11 am - 6 pm

Cry d'Er Club d'Altitude

ALTI'MUSIQUE

In collaboration with the *Rencontres de Crans-Montana*, 7 music ensembles will perform against a magical backdrop, at an altitude of 2200 metres. Both the concerts and, thanks to the generosity of CMA, the cable-cars * will be entirely free.

Hear and see:

Michael Guttman and **Jean-Noël Roux** with their Vivaldi of the 21st century, a unique arrangement of the Four Seasons as a world premiere

Coro Versilia - Capezzano Monte, Tuscany choir

L'Ensemble Choral Pro Arte de Sion, Valaisian choir

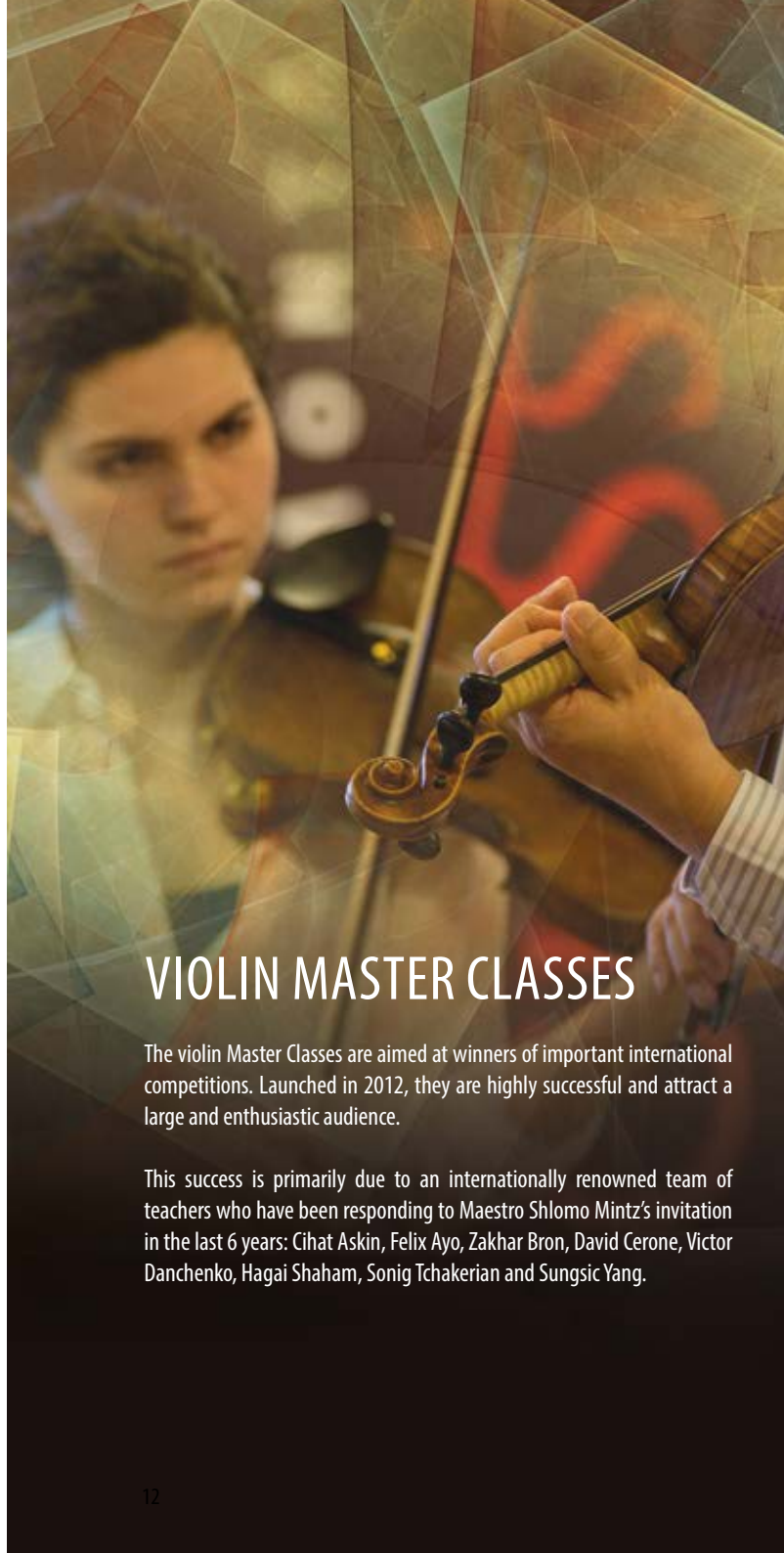
Le Hot Club de Berne, gipsy jazz quartet

L'Echo des Cerniettes, alp horn players from Fribourg

Le Chœur d'Hommes de Lens, men's choir

La Fanfare Echo des Bois de Crans-Montana, brass band

* Departure from Parking Crans-Cry d'Er, Route des Téléferiques.



VIOLIN MASTER CLASSES

The violin Master Classes are aimed at winners of important international competitions. Launched in 2012, they are highly successful and attract a large and enthusiastic audience.

This success is primarily due to an internationally renowned team of teachers who have been responding to Maestro Shlomo Mintz's invitation in the last 6 years: Cihat Askin, Felix Ayo, Zakhar Bron, David Cerone, Victor Danchenko, Hagai Shaham, Sonig Tchakerian and Sungsi Yang.



VIOLIN MASTER CLASSES

From Tuesday, August 1st to Thursday,
August 10th, 2017

4 to 7 pm, Hotel Royal

except Sunday 6th

Professors:



Shlomo Mintz (USA / Israel)
Director of the Master Classes
August 1st, 5th and 10th



Sungsic Yang (South Korea)
August 2nd and 7th



Sonig Tchakerian (Italy / Armenia)
August 3rd and 8th



Cihat Askin (Turkey)
August 4th and 9th

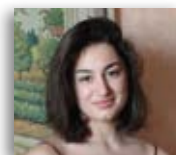
Accompanied on the piano by :

Alison Rhind, Sander Sittig

THE MASTER CLASSES PARTICIPANTS



**José
Fraguas** (19)
Spain



**Miriam
Guerrieri** (17)
Italy



**Julia
Jones** (13)
Great Britain



**Elena
Kawazu** (19)
USA / Japan



**Eshel
Kim** (14)
South Korea



**Olga
Kossovich** (22)
Russia



**Andrew
Samarasekara** (20)
Great Britain



**Ezgi
Sarıkcıoğlu** (23)
Turkey



**Hinako
Shimonosono** (20)
Japan



**Eva Lucia
Schmölzer** (17)
Austria



**Ruslan
Tagiev** (23)
Russia



**Youkyoung
Yoon** (25)
South Korea



BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Guttman is an eminent violin soloist, conductor and music director of festivals around the world. At age ten, he became the youngest student ever to be admitted into the Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music. Encouraged by his late mentor Isaac Stern, Guttman studied at the Juilliard School in New York with Dorothy Delay, the Juilliard Quartet and Felix Galimir. Guttman has earned critical acclaim from the New York Times for his “incredible wealth of tone colors and his sound of melting beauty”, and was described by the Jerusalem Post as the “Chagall of violinists”. He has performed in halls such as London’s Barbican Centre, New York’s Avery Fisher Hall, Paris’s Salle Pleyel, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and Tokyo’s Bunko Kaikan. He collaborated with the late conductor and composer Lukas Foss at the Music Festival of the Hamptons, a relationship which initiated his conducting career.

Much in demand as a chamber musician, he is regularly invited to perform at festivals by Martha Argerich (Lugano), Yuri Bashmet (Elba), Natalya Gutman (Kreuth), Boris Berezovski (Moscow) or Salvatore Accardo (Vicenza), among others. In the coming season, Guttman is scheduled to premiere the concerto for violin and cello by Philip Glass in the US, Asia and Europe. He will tour the UK with the Brussels Chamber Orchestra and appear with the Dallas Symphony, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Royal Flanders Philharmonic and will premiere a concerto by Steven Stucky in 2013.

Michael Guttman is the principal guest conductor of the Brussels Chamber Orchestra, the leader of the acclaimed Arriaga Quartet and of the Michael Guttman Tango Quartet, as well as the founder and artistic director of Pietrasanta in Concerto, the highly praised music festival in Tuscany. The Paris Camerata, an ensemble created by Guttman, will make its Italian debut at both festivals this summer. As a conductor, he has collaborated with such artists as Martha Argerich, Peter Serkin, James Galway and Richard Stoltzman. Following his recording of three concertos by Israeli composers with the London Philharmonic and the late David Shallon, Mr. Guttman performed with most Israeli orchestras and will play the concerto by Noam Sheriff with the Israel Philharmonic. Like his mentor Isaac Stern, Guttman is dedicated to helping young artists, notably at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Brussels.



Laure Barras begins her career in Switzerland in roles such as Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni), Giulia (La Scala di Seta), Berta (Barbiere di Siviglia) and Papagena (Zauberflöte). She recently made her debut in Montreal, at the Lucerne String Festival, with the Cameristi della Scala, the Geneva Chamber Orchestra, at the Lincoln Center in New York as well as with Les Musiciens du Louvre. From 2013 to 2015, Laure Barras joins the Studio of the Opera of Lyon where she sings Laurie in The Tenderland, the second Niece in Peter Grimes, Juliet in Romeo and Juliet and Frasquita in Carmen. Recent engagements include: Gemmy in Guillaume Tell with l’Opéra du Rhône, Clorinda in Cenerentola at the Lausanne Opera, Adele in Fledermaus with Opéra Grand Avignon, La Princesse in L’Enfant et les Sortilèges at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées and Frasquita in Carmen with Operspiel Munot.

Among her future engagements: a recital for the Britten Festival (Aldeburgh), a recital with Ophélie Gaillard, Johannes Passion with les Musiciens du Louvre and Eurydice in Orphée aux Enfers with Agaune Opera. Laure Barras won twice in a row the Migros Kulturprozent competition, and is also the recipient of scholarships from the Dénéreaz, Dubuis and Juchum Foundations. She founded Les Concerts du Cœur of which she is the artistic Director. After a Bachelor in Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic (INALCO-Paris) and an acting diploma (Cours Florent - Paris), Laure Barras received a Master with high honors in voice interpretation at the HEMU in Lausanne, and completed a Master/Opera degree at the HMTMH in Hannover, Germany.

Ruben Gazarian is the principal conductor of the “Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn” and Artistic Director of the Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt. He was guest conductor of the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, WDR (West German Broadcast) Symphony Orchestra Cologne, the Radio Symphony Orchestra Frankfurt (Main), the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, the Frankfurter Museumsorchester, the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra Rishon Lezion (orchestra of the Opera Tel Aviv), the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, Camerata Jerusalem, the Zurich Chamber Orchestra. Ruben Gazarian works with such famous soloists including Gautier and Renaud Capuçon, Julia Fischer, Hilary Hahn, Maximilian Hornung, Sharon Kam, Katia and Marielle Labèque, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Sabine Meyer, Daniel Müller-Schott, Viktoria Mullova, Sergei Nakariakov, Gerhard Oppitz, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Beaux Arts Trio and many others.



BIOGRAPHIES

He has made numerous concert broadcasts by German and Swiss radio channels. At the age of four Gazarian received his first violin lesson from his father. Subsequently, he was educated at the “P.I. Tchaikovsky Special Music School” and later at the “Yerevan State Conservatory” by the first violinist of the famous Borodin Quartet. His active concert career started in 1983. During his studies, he was contracted as a soloist by the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. At the same time, he was violinist of the National Armenian Piano Trio. In 1995, he began his conductor's education at the Leipzig Music Academy which he completed with the highest possible grade in a public final concert in 1998.

Alexander et Daniel Gurfinkel, twin brothers' duo, have already established themselves among today's most important clarinetists. They preserve a rich family tradition of three generations. Their grandfather Arkady Gurfinkel was a well-known clarinet player, teacher and arranger, while their father, Michael Gurfinkel, the principal of the Israel Symphony Orchestra and Israeli Opera is one of the leading clarinet players in Israel and abroad. Born in 1992, they began their musical education in 2000 and, by age 12, they were invited by Zubin Mehta to appear as soloists in the annual concert for young musicians with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. In the recent seasons, Duo Gurfinkel were re-engaged with Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic and performed abroad with the Zagreb Philharmonic, Belgrade Philharmonic, Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra, National Ukraine Symphony Orchestra, as well as on tour in France with the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, with the Moscow Virtuosi, “Soloists of Moscow”, the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Le Zion, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt, the Wuerttemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn, the Rome Chamber Orchestra at the Vatican, the Bulgaria National Orchestra Radio and TV, the Georgian National Symphony Orchestra. Duo Gurfinkel's was/is invited to perform in all continents. Furthermore, Duo Gurfinkel recently have performed several world premieres. Among them are Rashid Kalimulin's Concerto for two clarinets and orchestra, the Concerto by Gil Shohat and Doron Toister's Klezmer Concerto. In 2013, the duo won the 3rd prize at the International Chamber Music Competition in Illzach, France. Last year they won the 2nd prize at the 18th International Chamber Music Competition «Concorso Fiorindo» in Nichelino, Italy. Last February, Duo Gurfinkel recorded a new CD Program. In February 2018, they will take a part at the Chamber Music project in Concertgebouw Amsterdam.

Lina Luzzi, who was born in Sion, began studying the cello at the age of four in the class led by Suzan Rybicki-Varga at Sion's Conservatory. She later studied at the HEMu of Lausanne at the Sion site under Marcio Carneiro until graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree in 2013. She continued her studies with a Master of Arts in Interpretation in 2014, under the guidance of Xavier Phillips. In 2015, Lina spent a year studying under Wendy Warner at the University of Columbus in the USA, where she had an opportunity to perform with several chamber music ensembles and notably with the pianist Alexander Kobrin. She received a scholarship from the Madeleine Dubuis Foundation in 2015 and from the Swiss Chamber Academy in 2017. Passionate about chamber music, she has already performed with musicians such as Pavel Vernikov, Stéphane de May, Francesco de Angelis, Stéphane Chapuis, Svetlana Makarova, along with José-Daniel Castellon, in Switzerland, Belgium, Holland and Italy. A founding member of the String Quartet Alci since 2016, she has taken part in several classical or baroque music projects with a number of Valaisian orchestras and ensembles. Lina plays a 1735 cello by Andrea Castagneri.

Stéphane Stas spent his first forty years in his home country Belgium, before finally succumbing to the charms of the Valaisian mountains. An artist of many different talents, he has never stopped creating and surprising all those who have the pleasure of following his eclectic career.

A graduate of the Royal Antwerp Conservatory, where he studied piano under Pascal Sigrist, Stéphane Stas simultaneously trained as a singer and narrator. Despite being a sought-after chamber music player, he chose instead to focus on French songs. He won several competitions as an author-composer-singer, often seen as the spiritual son of Michel Berger. But he really came to public notice in a completely different genre, the so-called “wordless” singing. In the neo-classical tradition, he uses his high tenor voice as an instrument in his “sine nomine cantus”, which quickly became popular with music lovers seeking a calming and restful type of music. He has also written a musical comedy, taken part in all kinds of musical collaborations, nurtured many young talents who have adopted his original pedagogical method, recorded seven CDs... and written a philosophical-psycho-spiritual treatise. More recently, he adapted Frédéric Lenoir's “The Soul of the World” for the stage, marking yet another change of direction in his artistic path and a new source of inspiration.





BIOGRAPHIES

Shlomo Mintz is considered by critics, colleagues and audiences as one of the foremost violinists of our time, esteemed for his impeccable musicianship, stylistic versatility and commanding technique alike. Born in Moscow in 1957, he immigrated to Israel with his family two years later, where he studied the violin with Ilona Feher. At the age of 14, he made his concert debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and at the age of 16 he made his debut in Carnegie Hall with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, under the patronage of Isaac Stern.

Since then he regularly appears with the most celebrated orchestras and conductors on the international music scene. In the 2012/2013 Season, he celebrated his 50th anniversary on stage with a concert with the National Orchestra of France in the Champs Elysées Theatre among other festivities. Shlomo Mintz has been a jury member of several important international competitions including the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition in Brussels.

He was President of the Jury of the International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition and the Sion Valais International Violin Competition and was at the same time the Artistic Director of the International Music Festival Sion Valais. He co-founded the Keshet Eilon International Violin Master course in Israel and remained its patron for over 18 years. Currently he presides over the Munetsugu Angel Violin Competition in Nagoya, Japan and the Buenos Aires International Violin Competition and gives Master Classes all over the world. Mintz frequently appears as a soloist in concerts for Violins of Hope, a project that aims to promote peace through music. In 2010, Jean Bonvin presented the Violins of Hope, all of which came either from concentration camps or survived the Shoah. The instruments now form the basis of a touching exhibition that has had its worldwide opening in Sion.

He has won several prestigious prizes including the Premio Internazionale Accademia Musicale Chigiana, the Diapason D'Or, the Grand Prix du Disque, the Gramophone Award and the Edison Award. In 2006 he was awarded an Honorary Degree from the Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, Israel.



Cihat Askin, after graduating at İTÜ with honors degree, completed his Doctoral degree in London at the Royal College of Music and at City University. Upon his arrival to Turkey, he was appointed as Associate Professor in 1998 and Professor in 2006, at ITU. Under the same roof, he carried on his academic and artistic activities, as the founder and co-chair of MIAM (Advanced Research Music Center). Askin served as the Director of Turkish Music State Conservatory of ITU in between 2008-2012. He has been giving concerts across Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and the USA. He participated as a jury member in international violin competition in Bulgaria, Serbia, Poland, Israel, Switzerland and Argentina. Being a noted champion and broadcaster of modern Turkish music, he made albums of his own compositions. In 2006, the first integral recording of Kreutzer 42 Etudes was released and highly acclaimed by the critics. Askin made musical arrangements for violin and various instruments, film soundtracks, radio and TV recordings. He worked with Warner Classics and CPO. In 2004, he established an educational project called Cihat Askin and Little Friends (CAKA), which aims to support young talents and develop violin education throughout Turkey. And in 2007 he founded his chamber orchestra, Askin Ensemble. Among his many prizes may be mentioned, Menuhin and Flesch, he is granted the Foyer des Artistes award in 2002 and the J. F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts - Gold Medal Award in 2009. Cihat Askin plays with violins by Jean Baptiste Vuillaume (1846) and Sgarabotto (1924).

Sonig Tchakerian lived her youth in Aleppo, where she first started playing violin with her father, a passionate musician. In Italy, Sonig Tchakerian brilliantly ends her studies at the age of 16 with Maestro Giovanni Guglielmo, with the highest mark and a special mention. After numerous awards at the Paganini in Genova, the ARD in Munich, the Gui in Florence, Sonig Tchakerian did many recitals of chamber music and concerts, as a soloist, with prestigious orchestras such as the *Royal Philharmonic* of London, the *Bayerischer Rundfunk* in Munich, the Verdi in Milano and took part in projects with conductors such as Piero Bellugi, Daniele Gatti, Antonio Janigro, Daniel Oren, Claudio Scimone, Emil Tchakarov and she has a very rich discography. She teaches at the violin master classes of the prestigious Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome. She heads artistic projects of chamber music, and, thanks to her charisma, combines dance with music, electronic but also jazz, poetry, prose, sacred texts and premiere executions. She plays a Gennaro Gagliano violin, manufactured in Naples in 1760.



BIOGRAPHIES



Sungsic Yang was born 1966 in Seoul, Korea and started playing the violin at the age of four. First grand prize winner of the 1988 Carl Flesch International Violin Competition in London, he has established himself as one of the leading violinists of his generation. He has been invited to represent Korea as a member of jury at the prestigious Long-Thibaud violin competition in Paris, the Paganini competition in Genoa, as well as Munetsugu competition in Nagoya, Japan. He was appointed Professor of Violin in Daegu Catholic University, and has launched a new string chamber group the “Erato Ensemble” as the Music Director. The international career of Mr. Yang includes performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ireland, the Leningrad Chamber Orchestra, the Warsaw Chamber Orchestra, the Monte Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra, the London BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, among others and with the greatest batons of the world as Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Lawrence Foster, Dmitri Kitayenko, Laurent Petitgirard, and Lorin Maazel with whom Sungsic Yang did his Paris concerto debut in 1988 with the Orchestre National de France. His recitals in prestigious Halls such as Salle Gaveau in Paris, Wigmore Hall in London, Merkin Hall in New York were unanimously acclaimed both by the critics and the audiences. In April 2017, he joined the Tokyo University of Arts as visiting Professor.

Alison Rhind is recognised as one of the leading collaborative pianists specialising in the repertoire for piano and strings. Her ability to accompany was recognised and nurtured whilst still at Chetham's School of Music and she became increasingly in demand throughout her time at Oxford University where she read Music at Wadham College. In 1994, she moved to the Yehudi Menuhin School. She toured Israel and Germany with the students and was invited to accompany at the prestigious Kronberg Akademie after her recitals there with the school. During this period, she coached many young instrumentalists with whom she has since forged notable recital partnerships particularly the violinists Alina Ibragimova and Nicola Benedetti. Since 2009 Alison has worked at the Royal College of Music as Coach for the String Department which she now combines with freelance recital work. Her work at the college has also led her to being invited to Norway, Sweden and Singapore to coach students there and she has a collaborative relationship with many teachers who send their students to her specifically for duo coaching.

Sander Sittig was born in Rotterdam. He studied at the Amsterdam Conservatory with Jan Wijn. After winning prizes at several international piano competitions he started a career that took him all over Europe and other continents, performing a wide range of repertoire; piano concertos, solo recitals and chamber music. Sander Sittig has recorded solo (compositions by Mozart) and chamber music CD's. He is best known, however, as the partner of famous violinists, like Shlomo Mintz, Ilya Grubert, Liza Ferschtman and Maria Milstein, performing with them in Shanghai, Madrid, Milan, Amsterdam, Brussels and Istanbul. He frequently appears at numerous festivals and is official pianist at several competitions around the world. Sander Sittig lives in Amsterdam and teaches chamber music, piano accompaniment and artistic research at the Rotterdam Conservatory.

Sirba Octet, founded in 2003 by the violinist Richard Schmoucler, consists of seven classical musicians, most of who originally come from the Paris Orchestra. Their mission is to give a new take on both the Yiddish and gypsy repertoire. The group has built up a loyal following through its performances outside the usual circuits and they continually strive to create innovative programmes that mix klezmer and gypsy music with musical comedy standards. After the success of their first show entitled *A Violin on the Roofs of Paris*, the group recorded their debut album called *A Yiddishe Mame on the Ambroisie label (Naïve)*. In 2007, Sirba Octet joined musical forces with the singer Isabelle Georges and put on *Du Shtetl* in New York, a programme combining American musical comedy standards, Yiddish theatre and jazz, klezmer and even ragtime standards. This collaborative method was continued in partnership with the Pau Orchestra and resulted in a programme called *Yiddish Rhapsody* that was both symphonic and vocal. Sirba Octet brought out its fifth album called *Tantz!* In 2015, this time on the *La Dolce Volta (Choc Classica)* label, followed by a series of 5 exceptional concerts at the *Espace Pierre Cardin* in Paris, to enthusiastic reviews from both the press and the media. Sirba Octet has also been working on a new symphonic programme with the *Pau/Pays de Béarn Orchestra*, with *Nicolas Kedroff* on the *balalaika*. The new programme is entitled *Sirba Orchestra!* and showcases Yiddish and Slav music. A performance was played by both the *Brittany Symphonic Orchestra* and the *Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Liege*. *Sirba Orchestra!* will be recorded with the *RPOL* in December 2017 on the *Decca Records/Universal* label and available in the autumn of 2018.



The Orchestra of Cameristi della Scala was founded in 1982 and is formed by musicians from the orchestra of Teatro alla Scala. They performed in the most prestigious theatres and concert halls in the world: the Carnegie Hall in New York, the MIT in Boston and Washington, the Unesco headquarters, the Salle Gaveau in Paris, the Warsaw Opera Theatre, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Tonhalle in Zurich, the Coliseum in Buenos Aires. They participated to the Canary Islands Festival and toured China, Spain, Germany, France, Switzerland, Israel, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Latvia, Serbia and Turkey.

They also represented the city of Milan at Expo 2010 with great success. In 2011, they played in the Sony Center in Toronto and they opened the Emilia Romagna Festival in Imola. 2015 Cameristi performed in New York at the United Nations Auditorium celebrating the 60th anniversary of Italy in the UN.

They collaborate with the greatest conductors on the international scene, from Riccardo Muti to Daniel Barenboim. The orchestra's repertoire includes the principal compositions for chamber orchestras from the 18th century to today, including attention to the lesser known Italian instrumental pieces of the 19th century, often characterized by solo parts of great virtuosity which fit well with the instrument characteristics of the group's soloists.

In 2012, they received from the Province of Milan the Isimbardi Prize dedicated to those institutions which have contributed to the prestige of the city of Milan in the world. For the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Unity of Italy and in collaboration with the Associazione Musica del Risorgimento, the Cameristi carried out important research on the new 19th century repertoire. They also edited three volumes on music from the Risorgimento for the publisher Carisch. In September 2011, for the MiTo Festival, the Cameristi performed Mass for King Charles Albert by the composer from Novara Carlo Coccia for the first time in modern times.

The Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt was founded in 1964 in Tbilisi/Georgia, as the Georgian State Chamber Orchestra. The Orchestra moved 1990 to Ingolstadt, where it has made its second home for the last twenty-five years. Its new life in Bavaria is nothing other than a continuation of the old, under different conditions. Continuity is a principle of this very Eastern European Orchestra. Even today the Orchestra in Ingolstadt still consists almost of musicians from Georgia, the former Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe. Since its move to Germany in 1990, the Georgian Chamber Orchestra has been based in Ingolstadt. The former Orchestra-in-exile, with the support of the City of Ingolstadt, Audi and the Ingolstadt Sparkasse, has become a fixture in cultural life both locally and further afield.

The Orchestra has been strongly artistically influenced by its director of many years, the violinist Liana Issakadze, as well as by conductors such as Lord Yehudi Menuhin and Kurt Masur. Between 2000 and 2006, Markus Poschner headed the Ensemble, followed by Ariel Zuckermann until 2011. Lavard Skou Larsen then became chief conductor. In 2014 the Los Angeles-born conductor Benjamin Shwartz was Artistic Director, and now in 2015 the Armenian Ruben Gazarian leads from the podium of the Georgians.

The Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt considers itself an Ensemble not only responsible for a significantly broad repertoire, but also as a cultural ambassador for the City of Ingolstadt. This involves activities beyond the subscription concerts. The Orchestra gives about ninety concerts a year at music festivals. It also performs abroad, for example in Spain, France, Georgia, Austria, in Switzerland and recently in Israel. It has also been a fixture in the Audi Summer Concert Series for many years.

Since 2010, the Ensemble has been supported by the Free State of Bavaria as a non-state orchestra.



The Hot Club de Berne swiss capital's jazz manouche band, gets its inspiration from Django Reinhardt's and Stéphane Grappelli's repertoire. The many musical influences of Vincent Milliod - violin, special guest Charles Frechette and Slawek Plizga - gypsy guitars as well as Valentin von Fischer - double bass, bring you to the sounds of Jazz Manouche. The Hot Club de Berne performs chamber Jazz music totally acoustic without the use of any artificial effects. It leads to a unique sound and interpretation using the gypsy guitar's warm colors, letting speak the wood instruments on their own.

Gérard Bagnoud comes from Chermignon, his wife is Valaisian and they have three daughters. He has always had very close ties with Crans-Montana, coming back whenever his professional obligations in the world of finance in Geneva allowed him to do so. After graduating from the New York Institute of Finance, he worked in London, New York, Zurich and Geneva. After several years at the General Direction of the Private Banking Union in Geneva, he joined the management team of Julius Baer in the same city. He was a Managing Partner of De Pury Pictet Turrettini & Co. Ltd in Geneva until 2013, when he became Senior Advisor. As a former member of the Committee of the Geneva Financial Centre Foundation, Gérard Bagnoud is a recognised specialist in heritage management, more specifically in the area of alternative asset management.

His love of golf led him to work on the promotion and eco-friendly development of the sport in Switzerland. He has served as Vice-President to the ASG (Swiss Golf Association), Vice-President to the Geneva Golf Club and President of the ASGI (Swiss Association of Independent Golfers). A long-time supporter of the Friends of the OSR and also a member of the Geneva Literary Society, Gérard Bagnoud is passionately interested in music and culture and delighted to be able to put his experience and talents to work on behalf of the Haut-Plateau.

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