

1. IMPRESSIVE REPERTOIRE

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VIOLINIST,
Alena Baeva

Impressive repertoire

Musicians set to dazzle this month at 17th Pharos Chamber Music fest

The 17th International Pharos Chamber Music Festival welcomes to Cyprus some of the most remarkable artists on the international music scene over June 2-20, for performances in two unique venues in Cyprus: the Royal Manor House in Kouklia - one of the finest surviving monuments of Frankish architecture in Cyprus and a UNESCO World Heritage site, and The Shoe Factory, a contemporary recital venue situated on Ermou Street, near Nicosia's buffer zone. Exploring the many forms of the chamber music genre, the Festival will encompass an impressive array of instrumental combinations and repertoire, ranging from the Baroque to the 20th century, as well as feature a number of rarely-performed masterpieces.

The Festival opens tonight in Nicosia with a voice and piano recital by renowned Danish coloratura soprano Susanne Elmark

Elmark. Having been in great demand worldwide for the last 20 years, Elmark has sung in houses like Deutsche Oper Berlin, Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, Teatro Real Madrid, Opera Oslo, Oper Frankfurt, Oper Cologne, Opernhaus Zürich, and Royal Opera Copenhagen.

For her recital in Cyprus, Elmark will join forces with the international répétiteur Christian Westergaard, winner of the 2015 International Lied Duo Competition, in a programme of songs by Debussy, Berg, R. Strauss, Prokofiev and Grieg.

Next Friday, the Shoe Factory will welcome the return visit of the sensational young pianist Vitaly Pisarenko, winner of the First Prize in the 8th International Franz Liszt Piano Competition and Third Prize winner at the 2015 Leeds International Piano Competition. His recital, organised in collaboration with the Keyboard Charitable Trust in London, will include works by Schubert, Schumann and Liszt.

After an intensive week of educational



VIOLINIST,
Clara-jumi
Kang

activities and master-classes for students from all over the world, the 17th International Pharos Chamber Music Festival will move to the Royal Manor House of Kouklia near Paphos, which is specifically transformed by the Festival to a first-class recital hall. Some of the world's greatest musicians will join forces for six concerts.

The Festival will host one of the most renowned names of the great Russian piano school, Sergei Babayan, claimed for the immediacy, sensitivity and depth of his interpretations, the rare emotional intensity and bold energy of his performances and his extraordinary mastery in exploring stylistically diverse repertoire. Babayan was the first pianist from the former USSR who was able to compete without government sponsorship after the collapse of the system, and immediately after his first trip outside of the USSR, he won consecutive first prizes in several major international competitions, including the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the Hamamatsu Piano Competition and the Busoni International Piano Competition.

The Festival will also feature one of the most musically dynamic and technically gifted performers of the new generation of pianists, the Gold Medallist of the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Vadym Kholodenko, who is internationally recognised for his powerful and exhilarating performances that "show the guts of

a true super-artist". Alongside them, the Festival is thrilled to present the return visit of the amazing Yevgeny Sudbin, hailed by The Telegraph as "potentially one of the greatest pianists of the 21st century" and by the International Record Review as "one of the most important pianistic talents of our time".

Besides the Festival's regular guests - distinguished cellist and artistic director of the Festival Alexander Chaushian, the impressive Russian violinist Boris Brovtsyn, violinists Levon Chilingirian and Monika Urbonaitė, violists Diemut Poppen and David Abrahamyan, and cellist Tim Park, this year's Festival will also host for the first time the exceptional violinist Alena Baeva, fast emerging as one of the finest violinists of her generation, having already carved out an impressive career to date as a regular soloist with some of the world's most important orchestras; one of the most brilliant and engaging French violinists of our times - Nicolas Dautricourt, voted 'Classical Discovery of the Year' at the Midem in Cannes and awarded the Sacem Georges Enesco Prize; the prodigious violinist Clara-jumi Kang, prize winner in several major competitions, including Tibor Varga, Seoul, Hannover and Indianapolis violin competitions; and the fascinating violist Jennifer Stumm, recognised as one of the world's dynamic and creative advocates for her instrument, and whose TED talk "The Imperfect Instrument" was named editor's pick of all ted.com talks.

The 17th International Pharos Chamber Music Festival will also welcome the return of French cellist Marc Coppey, discovered by Lord Yehudi Menuhin at a very early age and considered today one of the leading cellists in the world, the renowned Italian flutist Massimo Merelli, who is the dedicatee of numerous works by some of the most important contemporary composers - including Philip Glass, Giovanni Sollima, Sofia Gubaidulina and Krzysztof Penderecki - and the newly-founded Cyprus Guitar Trio, which comprises three renowned classical guitarists from Cyprus - Vasilios Avraam, George Christofi and Socrates Leptos. For more information, visit pharosarts-foundation.org