

1. RETREAT RECHARGE AND BE INSPIRED

Μέσο: SUNDAY MAIL LIVING

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The 15th International Pharos Chamber Music Festival

May 20 to June 2 at the Shoe Factory in Nicosia and the Royal Manor House in Kouklia. For further information and a full programme of events visit www.pharosartsfoundation.org.

Tickets cost €15 (€10 concessions & members of the Pharos Arts Foundation), and are available on the website, from Kyriakou Bookshops in Paphos (26 822850) or by calling 96 669003 (Monday-Friday 10:00am-3:00pm)



Retreat, recharge and be inspired

Coming up this month is one of the longest-lived, internationally-renowned annual music events on the island: the Pharos Chamber Music Festival. Taking place between May 20 and June 2, it sees the 15th anniversary of an undertaking which has been a triumph of success since its inception, delighting both discerning local and international audiences for well over a decade and ensuring Cyprus is on the cultural map year after year. Encompassing a series of concerts and recitals, the festival is known for presenting some of the most renowned classical musicians in the world in a programme that caters to all – whatever their musical understanding, cultural background or age. And its continued success, says Yvonne Georgiadou – Artistic Director of the Pharos Arts Foundation – is mainly due to the quality of its artists.

“There are a lot of reasons

The International Pharos Chamber Music Festival marks 15 years this month with an impressive series of concerts to appeal to all tastes says ALIX NORMAN

why this festival is so successful: the programme is rich and varied, the venues are extremely relaxing, intimate and offer great acoustics, but its success is mainly due to the high quality of the musicians it hosts,” says Yvonne. “Pharos always strives for excellence. It is very important for the public to be able to distinguish between good and bad performances: listening to classical music alone is not enough; it is the quality of its performance that makes the concert worthwhile.”

With Pharos drawing from the top musical leagues in the world, audiences are assured a performance of heartbreaking beauty, quality and skill. Three individual artists will be giving recitals at the Shoe Factory in Nicosia during the festival: twice

Grammy-nominated saxophonist Amy Dickson, pianist Alesio Bax (recipient of innumerable awards, and soloist with over 100 of the most prestigious orchestras in the world, including the London and Royal Philharmonic orchestras), and pianist Vadym Kholodenko - Gold Medallist of the Fourteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, whose powerful, exhilarating performances have built him an international reputation for interpretations that are impeccable, tasteful and vibrant.

The programme also includes six chamber concerts in the Royal Manor House in Kouklia, one of the greatest pilgrimage destinations of the ancient Greek world, under the auspices of distinguished cellist

and artistic director of the festival Alexander Chaushian. “For one week, Kouklia’s Lusignan Manor House is converted into a first-class concert hall for the festival,” says Yvonne. “There is a special, inexplicable energy in this ancient place, which along with the sublime festival music, makes every moment a magical experience for everybody. I have been organising this festival for ten years now, and I cannot imagine the month of May without it and without the intense energy of its surroundings. Speaking with the artists and the audience I’ve realised they feel the same: it’s the perfect opportunity to retreat, recharge and be inspired.”

And the good work continues: well known for the events running parallel to the actual

concerts, Pharos has played an important role over the years in reaching out to the coming generations, inspiring a love of music and appreciation of the arts in the young. Having benefited over 65,000 students from all over Cyprus with its seminars and masterclasses, Pharos has given many local youngsters the undreamt of opportunity to learn from and work with the world’s finest musicians.

“Despite the numerous obstacles facing a non-profit, non-governmental cultural foundation, the Pharos Arts Foundation is always committed to artistic excellence and has been instrumental in the development of a classical concert-going tradition in our country,” concludes Yvonne. “And our 15th anniversary is certain to be a very special experience.” So book your place without delay, and be part of the musical legacy that is the 15th International Pharos Chamber Music Festival.