

FESTIUAL REPORT





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2

The sixth Cello Biennale: All expectations exceeded!



'Beautifully programmed cello festival with lots to be discovered.' NRC

After a highly successful jubilee edition in 2014, with unheard of audience interest and huge appreciation from the public and the press, no one had dared to hope that this sixth Cello Biennale Amsterdam (20-29 October 2016) would yet again be a record-breaker. Over the ten days of the festival, visitor numbers were up almost 10% for 82 concerts, shows, masterclasses and presentations in the Muziekgebouw and the Bimhuis. Seating capacity figures rose from 87% to 92%, with a record 29,248 visits. Appreciation for the festival also rose, from 8.6 to 8.7.

A lot was new at this Biennale and the audience appeared keen to lap it up. The many new faces on the stage, eleven world premieres and five new music theatre productions, all within the context of the festival theme **The Acting Cello**, provided a festival that felt innovative. Forty-three soloists from at home and abroad, six orchestras, a choir and eleven ensembles offered their audiences the entire musical spectrum, from favourite classical repertoire to new music, pop, jazz, impro and music from other corners of the globe.

'Bach, drill and rock at the greatest cello festival in the world.' NRC

The National Cello Competition

The National Cello Competition is an inseparable part of the Cello Biennale. Dutch students or foreign students studying in the Netherlands up to the age of 27 have the opportunity every two years to present themselves before an international jury. The level appears to be climbing with every passing edition. The 2016 competition produced three exceptional finalists and a winner of international class.

International

International cellists rarely meet up, yet at the Cello Biennale Amsterdam they do. Old friendships are strengthened and new ones are made. The festival became an international meeting point, with musicians and visitors from 27 countries. Students (often accompanying their teachers who were appearing as soloists) from ten conservatoires around the world – from Beijing to Helsinki – added to this international flavour.

The run-up

There were all sorts of events preceding the festival, such as the second edition of the mini-festival **Cello&Film** at EYE, the publication and presentation of the collection of short stories **Four variations for cello** at the Public Library in Amsterdam and bookstores throughout the country along with educational projects such as the **Hello Cello Days** in Zwolle, Amstelveen, The Hague and Eindhoven, and **The Storming** in primary schools in Amsterdam. These activities attracted more than 3,500 visitors.

Financial

The sixth Cello Biennale Amsterdam was made possible financially by the Municipality of Amsterdam, principal benefactors VSBfonds and Fonds21, the Muziekgebouw, contributions from three public funds, 21 private funds and donations from many friends (also see page 29).

'Over the past 10 days, the Muziekgebouw has been the capital of the cello world. And, as befits a capital, there was a coming and going of people, young and old, all of whom in this case shared a love for the cello. That same love ensured that the sixth edition of the Cello Biennale Amsterdam was the most successful in the festival's history.' Het Parool

Programming and Concerts

The Acting Cello, new initiatives and new productions

Cello Biennale Amsterdam takes pride in presenting programmes that haven't yet been seen or heard anywhere else.

Under the rubric of *The Acting Cello*, five new musical theatre shows, with the cello in the starring role, were initiated and presented during the Biennale.

Some of these shows were also produced in collaboration with the Biennale.

New musical theatre

For Cello8ctet Amsterdam, the young director Dagmar Slagmolen created a theatre version of the show *Instant Happiness*, set at Oerol in the dunes, a raw, highly visual musical play about a society where the demand for throw-away fashion leads to degrading working conditions in the clothing industry in Asia. The music, by Belgian composer Jan Kuijken, was ideally suited to the pioneering cellists, as players and actors as well.

Dagmar Slagmolen also took master students from the Creative Performance Lab (Conservatorium van Amsterdam) under her wing in *The Master and Margarita*, based on the novel by Mikhail Bulgakov. With an impressive Maya Fridman in the leading role, playing the cello and singing, supported in the end by the 'devil' Kian Soltani and with some pioneer students also acting and playing, this show was a model for excellent collaboration.

The cellist Jörg Brinkmann was the beating heart of the (late-night) show *POE: The Tell-Tale Heart*. Director Sjaron Minalo, Brinkmann, along with singer Claron McFadden and the Artvark Saxophone Quartet, put on a tight and tense premiere, telling a horror story as it had never been told before.

New co-productions

One entirely new concept was also the highly successful collaboration with the Flamenco Biennale in *Fantasia para Violonchelo y Flamenco*. Talented young cellists Kian Soltani and Ella van Poucke were paired with big names from the world of Flamenco in an Oriental and Spanish programme, with a mix of songs from the repertoire of Rocío Márquez and 'classical' Spanish repertoire.

One of the absolute high points was the premiere of *Nomaden*, an intriguing and moving new work by Joël Bons. With cellist Jean-Guihen Queyras and the Atlas Ensemble in the main roles, the packed audience bore breathless witness to the sojourn for a whole hour.

New works, a new band and the One Page Composition Project

The opening concert given by the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, with soloists Antonio Meneses and Pieter Wispelwey, started with the theatrically staged new composition *Unraveled*, by Mayke Nas, our new Dutch National Composer.

The orchestra and the percussion group Slagwerk Den Haag, all hidden behind a large screen on the stage, generated a mysterious sound world, while the **Biennale Cello Band** – created especially for this festival – took the solo parts in front of the screen.

The Biennale Cello Band, consisting of Larissa Groeneveld, Timora Rosler, Jelena Očić and Jeroen den Herder, also presented the *One Page Compositions Project* with Slagwerk Den Haag. Composers Brendan Faegre, Pete Harden, Hilary

Jeffery, Genevieve Murphy and Martijn Padding had each written colourful compositions on a single page, and these pages were also exhibited on show during the Biennale.

Rob Zuidam wrote a new cello concerto, premiered with great conviction by the masterful Russian cellist Ivan Monighetti and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Zuidam's concerto was preceded by a ground-breaking *Symphony for Eight* by Philip Glass, performed flawlessly and from memory (!) by Cello8ctet Amsterdam.

After the interval, Nicolas Altstaedt brought the audience – yet again completely sold out – to its feet with his intense performance of the cello concerto *Tout un Monde Lointain* by Henri Dutilleux.

World class

The most famous cello ensemble in the world, **The 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic**, agreed to perform a demanding programme for the Biennale. They were greeted with a rapturous ovation for their offerings, including *Whatever lies ahead*, which was written for them and the Biennale by Chiel Meijering.

An audience favourite of the Cello Biennale Amsterdam, since the very first Biennale in 2006, has been Jean-Guihen Queyras. This year he not only took great pleasure in partnering the Atlas Ensemble and Joël Bons but also gave the Dutch premiere of the cello concerto by the French composer Gilbert Amy (80) and played a dazzling performance of the Brahms Double Concerto with Shunske Sato and the Orchestra of the 18th Century.

'Right from the start, I was bowled over by this festival. You could easily describe it as a love story. You'll come across the entire galaxy you might dream of featuring the cello in Amsterdam'.

Jean-Guihen Queyras in the VPRO Gids

New names

One of the remarkable things about this year's Biennale was the large number of new names. Antonio Meneses, Daniel Müller-Schott, Jelena Očić, Torleif Thedéen, Alisa Weilerstein, Timora Rosler, Martti Rousi, Julian Steckel and Albert Brüggen appeared as guests at the Cello Biennale for the first time.

Like *Bach&Breakfast* - Bach's cello suites performed at 9.30 am (!) over six mornings and preceded by a light breakfast of croissants and fresh fruit juice - *Cello Coupé* has also now become an established tradition.

Cello Coupé is the closing party night of the festival, set in a Parisian Grand Café, where nearly all the festival cellists who are still around take their turn on stage.

The 12 Berlin cellists opened the show with the appropriate *La Vie en Rose*, played on this occasion not in their usual layout but from 'a corner in the café'.

One of the discoveries of the Cello Biennale Amsterdam has been the phenomenal Austrian jazz-rock duo BartolomeyBittmann. Having previously brought the house down during the Opening Concert and at an evening concert in the Bimhuis, cellist Matthias Bartolomey and mandola player Klemens Bittman came back from Vienna especially for *Cello Coupé* to bring the sixth Cello Biennale to a close along with all the musicians who were there, performing their popular song *Steja!*



Instant Happiness, Cello8ctet Amsterdam

POE: The Tell-Tale Heart, Jörg Brinkmann, Claron McFadden

De Meester en Margarita: Maya Fridman, Kian Soltani



De Suleika's en het Mysterie van de Gevoelige Snaar, Pepijn Meeuwis



Emile Visser, Jérôme Pernoo



De Opening: Maarten Mostert, Minister Jet Bussemaker, Johan Dorrestein



2CELLOS



Bruno Philippe



Aurélien Pascal, Ragazze Quartet, Szymon Marciniak



Timora Rosler



Jan Bastiaan Neven, Henk Neven



Anton Mecht Spronk



Pieter Wispelwey, Maarten Mostert



Nomaden: Kya Tabassian, Joël Bons, Elchin Nagijev



Nicolas Altstaedt



Alexander Rudin, Nicholas Collon



Gilbert Amy



Ella van Poucke



Efrén López, Derya Türkan, Rocío Márquez, Kian Soltani

6^e NATIONAAL CELLO CONCOURS

Young talent and encouraging it are essential elements of the Cello Biennale Amsterdam, with the **National Cello Competition** as its most important pillar.

The participants are judged by an international jury over three rounds and the audience also plays its part in the Finale.

Where young cellists previously had to submit a video recording in order to be admitted to the competition, on this occasion there was a preliminary round for the first time. The young cellists played on Wednesday 29 June 2016 in the Bimhuis before a jury consisting of Raphaël Pidoux, Gregor Horsch, Monique Bartels and jury chair Jan Willem Loot. Fourteen candidates were admitted to the first round, of whom 11 ultimately took part (with three unable to compete due to injury). Six of these were from the Netherlands and the other five were foreign students, present or former students in the Netherlands for at least one year at the time of the competition.

In the first round, all contestants played two compulsory works to the international jury and a large audience; these included the new competition piece *Air*, by Dutch composer Rob Zuidam. In the second round, the six remaining cellists again performed two compulsory works and also two they had chosen themselves. In the Finale, the three finalists then performed the *First Cello Concerto* by Shostakovich, accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, conducted by Judith Kubitz.

The First Prize and the Audience Prize were both won by the 18-year-old **Alexander Warenberg**. Alexander's prize includes a concerto with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra. **Anastasia Feruleva** won the Second Prize and the Prize for the best interpretation of the competition composition. Third Prize went to **Jobine Siekman**. The Incentive Prize was awarded to **Kalle de Bie**.

As well as the prize money, the three laureates are offered

National Cello Competition

The Laureates of the National Cello Competition 2016

First Prize	Alexander Warenberg (b. 1998)
Second Prize	Anastasia Feruleva (b. 1992) Russia
Third Prize	Jobine Siekman (b. 1995)

concertos and invited to take part in masterclasses at the Kronberg Academy, the German institute of excellence for talented international string players. The Biennale will also offer the three prize winners support and advice on entrepreneurship, marketing and programming. All competition participants received a set of Kaplan cello strings, kindly donated by D'Addario.

Jury for the National Cello Competition 2016

Gregor Horsch	The Netherlands
Monika Leskovar	Croatia
Raphaël Pidoux	France
Martti Rousi	Finland
Julian Steckel	Germany
Pieter Wispelwey	The Netherlands
Jan Willem Loot	The Netherlands (chair)
Patty Hamel	The Netherlands (secretary)

New prizes

Two new prizes were awarded during this National Cello Competition.

The *Sena Cello CD Prize* is an extra award for the winner of the competition. The award of € 5,000 allows the Sena winner to make a debut CD.

The *Start in Splendor Prize* is a new award, designed to stimulate entrepreneurship among talented young players. The prize is made possible by Anner Bijlsma, who is keen to use part of the *Anner Bijlsma Award* he received in 2014 on this project. The *Start in Splendor Prize* provides a promising talented cellist with the chance and budget to develop his or her own programme in the Splendor arts venue in Amsterdam and start creating their own audience, coached by musicians of Splendor and the staff of the Biennale. The *Splendor Prize* was awarded to **Kalle de Bie**.



De jury: Pieter Wispelwey, Julian Steckel, Gregor Horsch, Jan Willem Loot, Patty Hamel, Raphaël Pidoux, Monika Leskovar, Martti Rousi



Masterclasses



The festival offers an extensive international masterclass programme, attended by growing numbers of international cello students, either individually or as part of a cello class from an international conservatoire. Spread over 7 festival days, 14 masterclasses were given by international virtuosi who were at the Biennale as soloists or jury members.

Masterclasses were given by Torleif Thedéen, Antonio Meneses, Marti Rousi, Ivan Monighetti, Jérôme Pernoo, Gregor Horsch, Pieter Wispelwey, Raphaël Pidoux, Anner Bijlsma, Daniel Müller-Schott, Julian Steckel, Jelena Očić, Jean-Guihen Queyras and Nicolas Altstaedt.

These masterclasses were also heavily attended by the festival audience, with no fewer than 13 of them being completely sold out.

The masterclass given by Anner Bijlsma was devoted entirely to the Gigues in the first three solo suites by J.S. Bach, focusing on interpretation and the importance of precise articulations. The premiss was the manuscript version by Anna Magdalena Bach. The booklet written by Anner Bijlsma on this subject can be downloaded free of charge from the Biennale website.

'Of the many master classes open to the public during the cello extravaganza, the golden words of eminence grise Anner Bijlsma deserve reiteration. Ever fresh, ever at the boundary of musical exploration, this wise force of nature took us back to basics'. Violinist.com



The Anner Bijlsma Award

The **Anner Bijlsma Award** was founded in 2014 in honour of the first jubilee (the Fifth Cello Biennale) and in honour of the 80th birthday of the 'grand old man of the cello', Anner Bijlsma.

Spending the prize

Anner Bijlsma could spend 50,000 euros on education and the development of talent related to the cello. He decided to use the budget for the support of a number of different objectives, including research projects dealing with early music and fingering positions for early cello music (Maximiliano Segura Sánchez and Job ter Haar), the development of two exceptional Dutch cello talents (Lidy Blijdorp and Alexander Warenberg) and the creation of opportunities for young cellists through forging links with other art forms such as theatre, literature, dance and film and through teaching them to programme and helping them to build up an audience (Splendor, OORkaan).

A taster at the Biennale

The Award was conferred during this Cello Biennale 2016, but there was a taster of part of the prize that was awarded in 2014. The young Spanish cellist Maximiliano Segura Sánchez and his Cappella Estense gave a dazzling concert at the Bimhuis on 27 October, with works drawn from the earliest repertoire for the cello. The Anner Bijlsma Award allowed Maximiliano to undertake research in Modena and Bologna to study these sources and then to perform and record the works he found on CD. With this aim in mind, Maximiliano formed a brand new early music group – Cappella Estense, which also includes the young Italian soprano Cristina Grifone, the Greek harpsichordist Panos Iliopoulos and the Spanish theorbo player Javier Ovejero Mayoral.

The next Award

The next Award will be presented during the seventh Cello Biennale in 2018. In the same year, the recipient will be announced.

The **Anner Bijlsma Award** is the international oeuvre prize established by the Cello Biennale Amsterdam to stimulate education and the development of talent regarding the cello. The prize will be awarded every few years to an individual or body that has given outstanding service to the cello or the cello repertoire. The prize consists of 50,000 euros, which the winner may spend on the development of talent and education pertaining to the cello. The prize was first awarded in 2014 to the person after whom it is named, Anner Bijlsma.

The Anner Bijlsma Award 2014 was made possible through donations by Ferdinand van der Heijden, Julienne Straatman and Robert Bausch and by a contribution from the Für Elise CBA Fund.

The board of the Anner Bijlsma Award comprises Job Cohen - chair, Julienne Straatman - vice-chair, Marjoleine de Boorder and Anton Valk.



HELLO CELLO

Encouraging cello playing and classical music among children and youngsters

Hello Cello! is the vignette of the educational activities of the Cello Biennale.

The Cello Biennale not only lets its audiences hear the cello at the very highest levels but also encourages cello playing through all sorts of activities and fosters contacts between children and youngsters on the one hand and the cello and classical music on the other hand. There is a range of educational projects preceding and during the Cello Biennale, to introduce young and old alike to the cello: *Hello Cello!*

Hello Cello Orchestra

Nearly 160 children and youngsters from across the country get together to play in this great big 'cello orchestra'. The Hello Cello Orchestra studies new music written especially for them and the occasion before making its appearance at the Cello Biennale. The appetite for the Hello Cello Orchestra has never been so great. The orchestra was full up within days after registration was opened. Everyone wanted to take part in the performance of the new piece written by jazz musician Oene van Geel, who plays viola in the Zapp4 string quartet. Along with solo cellist Emile Visser, Oene inspired the young musicians and prompted a great performance out of them, not just learning the notes but also creating enthusiastic improvisations. To help with their study of the groovy parts, there were video clips on the Biennale website with Emile giving musical tips and explaining different playing methods. Rehearsals took place in Amsterdam, Zwolle, The Hague and Eindhoven with cello students and teachers from

each of the local conservatoires providing musical support. The end results were put on show at the Muziekgebouw on Saturday morning, 22 October, to a packed audience of parents, siblings, grandparents and everyone who loves the idea of masses of cellos.

Hello Cello Days

A Hello Cello Day is a mini-festival on a single day that looks like a real Cello Biennale day. There were four Hello Cello Days in the weeks leading up to the festival, in Zwolle, Amstelveen, The Hague and Eindhoven.

The cello is the star for a whole day at an arts centre, music school or theatre. The day starts off with *Bach&Breakfast*, where a well-known cellist from the region plays one of Bach's cello suites at breakfast time. There are masterclasses and workshops, a production for children, chamber music concerts and of course an appearance by the Hello Cello Orchestra. Here is a sample from the programmes in the different cities: the children's production *Cello! Cello! Ma non troppo*, workshops in jazz, baroque, making endpin rests, ensemble playing, visual art and the cello, studying effectively and 'your first cello lesson'. With input from musicians like Lucia Swarts, Viola de Hoog, John van de Beemt and Larissa Groeneveld, cello teachers at ArtEZ conservatoire and the Fontys Cello Ensemble, AKO Orchestra and the Camerata string orchestra, these turned into dazzling cello days for young and old alike.

The Hello Cello Days are organised in collaboration with local cello teachers and music institutions. The partners for the Hello



Cello&Co: Michiel Weidner, Jeannine Valeriano



De Bestorming, Simon Velthuis

'For ten days in a row, the most beautiful instrument in the world throbbed, buzzed, hummed, sang, whined, screamed, grumbled, whispered, mumbled, sniggered, shrieked and rejoiced in the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ. Of course, this could only happen at the Cello Biennale Amsterdam.' Het Parool

Cello Days 2016 were Jeugd Strijkorkest, ArtEZ conservatorium, De Vuurvogel Foundation, Koorenhuis in The Hague, The Hague Royal Conservatoire, Amstelveen Music & Dance School, CKE Eindhoven and Muziekgebouw Eindhoven.

The Storming

The Storming is the educational project run by the Cello Biennale for Amsterdam primary school children, in conjunction with Cello8ctet Amsterdam, OORkaan, the Prinses Christina Concours and the education department at the Muziekgebouw. *The Storming* was first produced in 2012 and turned out to be so effective and successful that the project kept on developing and has now been put on for the third time, on this occasion in Amsterdam North. Three schools were 'stormed': Driemaster, IJplein and Regenboog.

When the Storm strikes, the entire school is occupied by cellists for a whole day. At the crack of dawn, a freight truck pulls up in the playground. The trailer door opens up and out jump eight cellists... a surprise attack! They spread out through the school and make music wherever they go. This joyous, surprising occupation of the school by the cellists of Cello8ctet Amsterdam sets the tone for what will happen later in the day.

The school enjoys the flavour of the cello for the whole day, from the musical conquest in the playground, through the interruption and hijacking of lessons, the abduction to the Classic Express (the mobile concert hall conversion owned by the Prinses Christina Concours), to the presentation at the end of the day to all of the classes combined.

During this 'occupation' of the school, the children discover that music is extremely powerful, that you can tell stories with music, that a cello and a human body look very similar in some ways and that you can make any sound you want with the cello or with your own body and voice.

During the Cello Biennale, classes 3-5 from these schools came to the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ for the **Cellostorm** performance by Cello8ctet Amsterdam. Classes 6-8 had a tour of the Muziekgebouw and the Bimhuis, where they found out about learning to play the cello and told their own tales on the cello in the Sound Garden, saw a demonstration of 'cello and loop station' backstage in a dressing room and finally visited the cello manufacturers in the foyer area. We saw enthusiastic groups of children wandering through the building every day during the Cello Biennale, finding out about the festival. At the IJpleinschool, Muziekschool Noord has been offering cello lessons to the children in after-school sessions since *The Storming* struck.

Performances for infants and children

There were children's performances for our youngest visitors during the Biennale of the infants' production *Cello & Co*, given by the Splendor musicians Michiel Weidner - cello, Marijn Ornstein - clarinet /saxophone and vocalist Jeanine Valeriano. Older children and their families thoroughly enjoyed the hilarious family show *The Suleikas and the Mystery of the Sensitive String*, given by Pepijn Meeuws - cello, Emmy Storms - violin and Maarten den Hengst - piano and produced by Jochem Stavenuiter.

Make Music! Cello Special

'Make Music!' workshops were given in the Atrium of the Muziekgebouw for children of 8 and older, with brand new experimental instruments, but during the Cello Biennale these workshops were focussing entirely on the cello. New compositions were created under the guidance of a cellist. Learning the notes and being able to play the cello were absolutely not required. There was quite enough on offer with loop stations, new equipment and of course the cello.



Fringe

The Cello Biennale 2016 presented an extensive Fringe programme under the motto 'Get the most out of the Biennale!' There were all sorts of free events on offer, alongside the concerts for which tickets had to be bought.

Every day there was a bustling **festival market** with stands for cello builders and bow makers, CD and music sellers, and **workplaces** where a cello was being made over the course of the festival. In '**Test on the deck**' on Foyer deck 1, a different famous cellist each day would play a number of the cellos from the makers who were there.

The Comparison, in the Bimhuis, consisted of two presentations by the cellists Pieter Wispelwey and Gregor Horsch, comparing cellos and bows.

On the first and second days of the festival, the audience was able to hear all the competition participants for the **National Cello Competition 2016** during the first round of the competition, which was free to attend.

Top talented students from international conservatoires gave **lunchtime concerts** every day in the Bimhuis and on the **Open Podium** at 7.00 pm in the Kleine Zaal.

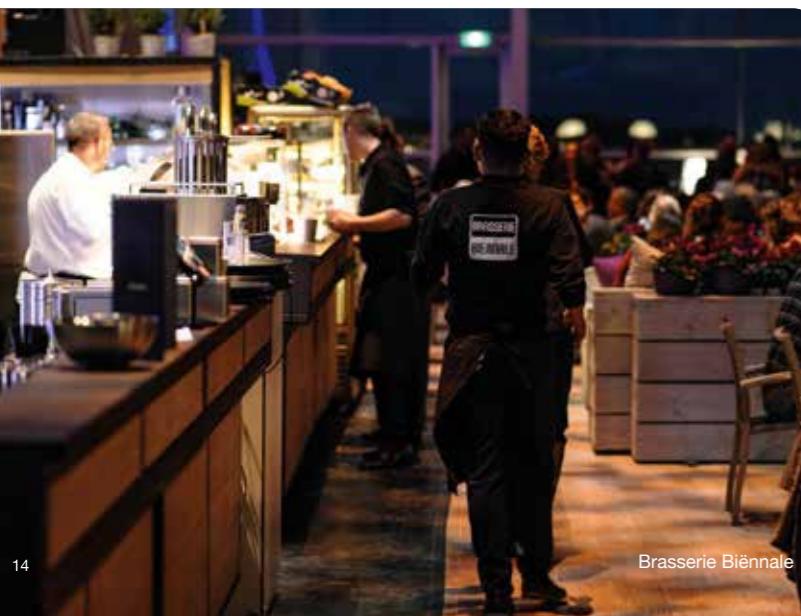
Just after the evening concerts, seven of the festival days were rounded off in an atmospheric, dreamy or even boisterous way with the sounds of seven unusual sound makers/cellists in the **Cello Lounge**, either in the Zouthaven restaurant or the Entrance Hall of the Muziekgebouw, the XL version.

An **exhibition** was set up in the hall of the Muziekgebouw of the five original One Page Compositions.

The grand **Brasserie Biennale**, in the Muziekgebouw atrium, was a favourite rendezvous point for festival visitors and musicians alike.

In the weeks leading up to the festival, the Cello Biennale organised not only all sorts of educational activities, like the Hello Cello Days and the Storming, but also the second edition of the festival **Cello&Film** at EYE and the collection of short stories **Four Variations for Cello** made its appearance.

'If pinned to the wall to mention just one distinguishing feature of the Biennale, I would be tempted to opt for its multiple offerings: over and beyond the concert hall, it's the buzz in the hall, the creation of a meeting place for musicians, musical experts and first-timers to get into the cello groove'. Violinist.com



Brasserie Biennale

Cello & Film

18 - 25 september 2016

eye

CELLO BIENNALE AMSTERDAM

18/9 16.00 **Hamlet**
stille film met live muziek van Annie Tångberg (cello), Emile Visser (cello), Martin de Ruiter (bandoneón)

20/9 19.30 **Bauhaus**
films uit de collectie van EYE. Örs Kószeghy (cello) speelt werken van Hindemith, Krenek, Veress. Aansluitend speelt de Cello Company.

21/9 19.30 Previewconcert van de theatrale voorstelling **De Meester en Margarita**
Aansluitend de film Il Maestro e Margherita

24/9 16.00 **Osiris Trio en Charlotte Riedijk**
Spelen: Seven Romances opus 127 van Sjostakovitsj. Aansluitend de documentaire Typhoonschik, over de Russische celliste Natalia Gutman

25/9 16.00 **Metropolis**
stille film met première van de nieuwe score van Pieter Smithuijsen voor acht cello's en twee pianotracks

Eye Filmmuseum Amsterdam
IJpromenade 1, 1031 KT Amsterdam
eyefilm.nl/cello

Cello&Film wordt mogelijk gemaakt door AF AK

A poster for the Cello&Film festival. It features a large image of a woman's face in profile, looking down. The text on the poster includes the festival name, dates, and details about the films shown: Hamlet, Bauhaus, De Meester en Margarita, Osiris Trio en Charlotte Riedijk, and Metropolis. It also mentions the Eye Filmmuseum Amsterdam and the sponsors AF and AK.

Cello&Film: De Meester en Margarita

A photograph of a film screening for Metropolis. Two men are looking at a large screen displaying a scene from the silent film. Below the screen, a small orchestra of musicians is performing live music to accompany the film.

Cello&Film: Metropolis

The run-up to the Biennale

Sneak Preview

There was a "Sneak Preview" of the sixth Cello Biennale on 31 October 2015, about a year ahead of the festival, before a sell-out audience in the Muziekgebouw.

Surrounded by soloists and musicians who would be making their appearance at the upcoming festival, artistic director Maarten Mostert pulled back the veil on the forthcoming festival programme. Kian Soltani, Pieter Wispelwey, Anton Mecht Spronk, the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Slagwerk Den Haag, the Biennale Cello Band and Bartolomey Bittmann, who had flown in from Vienna, all provided a glowing concert and raised expectations for the 'Cello Biennale to come' to fever pitch.

The Sneak Preview for the seventh Cello Biennale (18-27 October 2018) will be revealed on Friday 10 November 2017.

Cello&Film 2016

The second edition of Cello&Film took place at film institute EYE some weeks before the start of the Cello Biennale, from 18-25 September 2016.

EYE and the Cello Biennale joined forces for the first time in 2014 to put on the festival Cello&Film. Showing films and documentaries in which the cello played a part (sometimes a leading one) and presenting new cello music to accompany 'silent movies' proved to be a success. A follow-up was surely on the cards.

Cello&Film 2016 presented a musical film programme with five special events. **Hamlet** (Germany 1921), **Bauhaus**: avant-garde films from the EYE collection, **Il maestro e Margherita** (1972) which tied in with a preview of the theatre production *The Master and Margarita* by theatre director Dagmar Slagmolen, cellist Maya Fridman and Creative Performance Lab, **Typhoonschik** (1999), a documentary by Eline Flipse about the Russian cellist Natalia Gutman and finally **Metropolis** (1927), Frits Lang's renowned science fiction classic.

Four Variations for Cello

The Biennale started looking into the connection between poetry and music in 2014, the result being a collection of ten new poems about the cello by ten leading Dutch poets including Remco Campert and Anna Enquist.

This time, four well-known writers were each invited by the Cello Biennale to write a short story. The stories, by **Jan Brokken**, **Marente de Moor**, **Illa Leonard Pfeijffer** and **Annelies Verbeke**, form the collection of short stories **Vier variaties voor cello**. The collection was edited by Mirjam van Hengel and is published by Uitgeverij Podium. The publication was presented on 26 September in the Theater van 't Woord at the Amsterdam Public Library (OBA), where the chair of the OBA's supervisory board and Biennale fan **Job Cohen** was presented with the first copy.

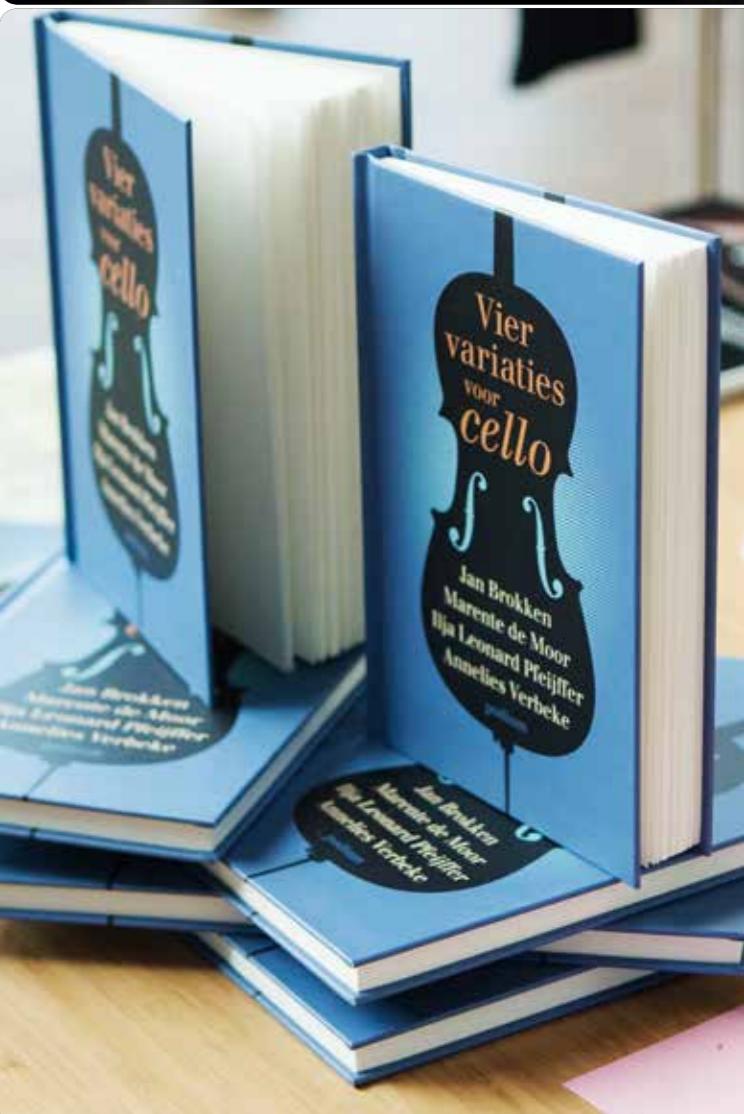
The Cello Company

In the run up to the festival, the Biennale organized several concerts in the homes and gardens of benefactors, like the members of the Casals Circle.

The Cello Company, a flexible cello ensemble formed by advanced students of the Conservatory of Amsterdam presented several different programmes. The Cello Company also appeared on the Main Stage of the Uitmarkt and at the Cello&Film Festival.



Maarten Mostert overhandigt verhalenbundel aan Job Cohen



The Cello Company geeft een tuinconcert

Audiences

Yet again, visitor numbers are up!

'The Cello Biennale Amsterdam is not only the greatest cello festival in the world, but also proves that there is indeed an audience for adventure, depth and focus - if marketed well.' NRC

The sixth Cello Biennale was visited by 29,248 people. Yet again, this figure is up; this time by more than 2,500 compared with 2014. 24,228 tickets were sold for the Muziekgebouw and the Bimhuis and we had 5,020 visitors to those parts of the programme that were free.

Sell-outs

The average seat occupancy rate at this Biennale rose to 92% (86.69% in 2014 and 76.45% in 2012). Thirtytwo of the 52 events for which one could buy a ticket were sold out (24 of 50 events in 2014).

A further 3,320 visitors were counted attending the events prior to the Cello Biennale, such as *Cello&Film* in EYE, the presentation of the collection of short stories *Four variations for Cello* at the OBA, the *Hello Cello* days in Eindhoven, Amstelveen, The Hague and Zwolle and the education project *The Storming* at a number of primary schools in Amsterdam. The total number of visitors at all Cello Biennale events worked out at 32,568.

Concerts for everyone

The Cello Biennale is keen to be accessible to everyone and affordable for every purse. The same price levels were used this time as in 2014, with ticket prices not being raised. Ticket prices were between €7.50 and €39.50 and several events and concerts were free to attend.



Ticket sales per concert

Date	Time	Location	Concert / Show	Number of visitors	Max. capacity	Occupancy
Thurs 20/10	20:15	Grote Zaal	Instant Happiness - Pre-opening - show 1	308	312	99%
	22:00	Grote Zaal	Instant Happiness - Pre-opening - show 2	202	312	65%
Fri 21/10	20:15	Grote Zaal	Opening concert	693	725	96%
	23:30	Bimhuis	Late Cello Night - BartolomeyBittmann	223	223	100%
Sat 22/10	11:00	Kleine Zaal	Cello&Co - show 1	95	100	95%
	12:30	Kleine Zaal	Cello&Co - show 2	104	104	100%
Sun 23/10	14:00	Bimhuis	Masterclass Antonio Meneses	100	100	100%
	14:00	Kleine Zaal	Masterclass Torleif Thedéen	129	129	100%
Mon 24/10	20:15	Grote Zaal	Fantasía para Violonchelo y Flamenco	716	716	100%
	0:00	Grote Zaal	Late Cello Night - 2CELLOS Unplugged	1.305	1.305	100%
Tue 25/10	9:30	Grote Zaal	Bach&Breakfast (Torleif Thedéen)	737	737	100%
	10:15	Bimhuis	Masterclass Ivan Monighetti	159	159	100%
Wed 26/10	10:15	Kleine Zaal	Masterclass Martti Rousi	100	100	100%
	14:15	Grote Zaal	Eighth Lines	728	728	100%
Thurs 27/10	14:15	Atriumzaal	Maak Muziek!	13	16	81%
	17:00	Grote Zaal	Dolce far Niente - TAKE FIVE	618	719	86%
Fri 28/10	20:15	Grote Zaal	Orchestra of the 18th Century	748	748	100%
	9:30	Grote Zaal	Bach&Breakfast (Ivan Monighetti)	521	713	73%
Sat 29/10	10:15	Bimhuis	Masterclass Jérôme Pernoo	182	182	100%
	10:15	Kleine Zaal	Masterclass Gregor Horsch	100	100	100%
Sun 30/10	14:15	Grote Zaal	Kreutzer Sonata	706	710	99%
	17:00	Grote Zaal	De Meester en Margarita - TAKE FIVE	622	713	87%
Mon 31/10	20:15	Grote Zaal	Amsterdam Sinfonietta dares!	710	714	99%
	9:30	Grote Zaal	Bach&Breakfast (Daniel Müller-Schott)	548	681	80%
Tue 01/11	10:30	Grote Zaal	National Cello Competition - second round, 10.30	405	681	59%
	13:30	Grote Zaal	National Cello Competition - second round, 13.30	400	681	59%
Wed 02/11	17:00	Grote Zaal	Zapp4&Jérôme Pernoo - TAKE FIVE	468	725	65%
	20:15	Grote Zaal	Hemels Vuur	737	737	100%
Thu 03/11	10:15	Bimhuis	Masterclass Pieter Wispelwey	250	250	100%
	10:15	Kleine Zaal	Masterclass Raphaël Pidoux	100	100	100%
Fri 04/11	14:15	Grote Zaal	Cellists play Cellists - Kronberg Academy	659	719	92%
	14:15	Atriumzaal	Maak Muziek!	10	16	63%
Sat 05/11	17:00	Grote Zaal	Queyras, Amy, Spronk & Janssen - TAKE FIVE	573	719	80%
	20:15	Grote Zaal	Soirée Brahms	717	717	100%
Sun 06/11	9:30	Grote Zaal	Bach&Breakfast (Alisa Weilerstein)	690	725	95%
	10:15	Bimhuis	Masterclass Anner Bijlsma	306	306	100%
Mon 07/11	10:15	Kleine Zaal	Masterclass Daniel Müller-Schott	100	100	100%
	14:15	Grote Zaal	Pidoux&Pernoo	515	725	71%
Tue 08/11	17:00	Bimhuis	One Page Project - TAKE FIVE	361	371	97%
	20:15	Grote Zaal	Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra	729	729	100%
Wed 09/11	9:30	Grote Zaal	Bach&Breakfast (Gregor Horsch)	595	725	82%
	10:15	Bimhuis	Masterclass Julian Steckel	180	239	75%
Thu 10/11	10:15	Kleine Zaal	Masterclass Jelena Očić	100	100	100%
	14:15	Grote Zaal	Russians	741	741	100%
Fri 11/11	17:30	Grote Zaal	Nomads	741	741	100%
	20:15	Grote Zaal	National Cello Competition - Finale	701	701	100%
Sat 12/11	0:00	Bimhuis	Late Cello Night - POE: A Tell-Tale Heart	212	212	100%
	9:30	Grote Zaal	Bach&Breakfast (Julian Steckel)	734	734	100%
Sun 13/11	10:15	Bimhuis	Masterclass Jean-Guihen Queyras	299	299	100%
	10:15	Kleine Zaal	Masterclass Nicolas Altstaedt	100	100	100%
Mon 14/11	14:00	Bimhuis	The Suleikas and the Mystery of the Silent String	219	219	100%
	14:00	Grote Zaal	The Hague Philharmonic Orchestra	732	732	100%
Tue 15/11	16:30	Grote Zaal	The12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra	762	762	100%
	21:00	Grote Zaal	Cello Coupé	725	725	100%

Total of programme elements paid for

Total number of visitors with programme elements accessible free

24.228 **26.377** **92%**

5020

29.248

1100

250

1200

770

Total visitor numbers for activities at the Cello Biennale Amsterdam 2016 **32.568**

Public survey

Approval

The Cello Biennale once again held a survey into approval ratings and the audience profiles. Almost 1,700 visitors responded to an online questionnaire.

The approval rating for the Biennale was 8.7, thereby rising slightly compared to 2014 (8.6). Of the different aspects surveyed for the approval rating, the programming, ambience and organisation had the best scores.

Innovation and development

The aspects of innovation and development also scored highly (at 8.5).

85% of the respondents indicated they felt it was important that the Cello Biennale was working on innovation and development and almost half of them felt that this was actually very important. Approval for the innovative nature of the Cello Biennale was not linked in to age groups: young and old felt similarly about it.

Information

The most significant source of information seemed to be the Cello Biennale's website (76%), followed by the Biennale's newsletter and ticket ordering leaflet and then the publications issued by the Muziekgebouw (all three around 50%). There was a marked age-related effect as regards more traditional media – newspapers, radio, TV and magazines. They became more important as the age range rose. The reverse occurred with the other sources of information and media. Social contacts, musical education, social media and public spaces became increasingly important for the younger respondents.

Loyalty and new audiences

The Cello Biennale has a loyal audience. No fewer than 60% had attended a previous Cello Biennale and no fewer than 10% of the respondents had been at every previous edition of the festival. This was the first visit to the Cello Biennale for around 40% of respondents, compared to the large proportion of newcomers at previous editions.

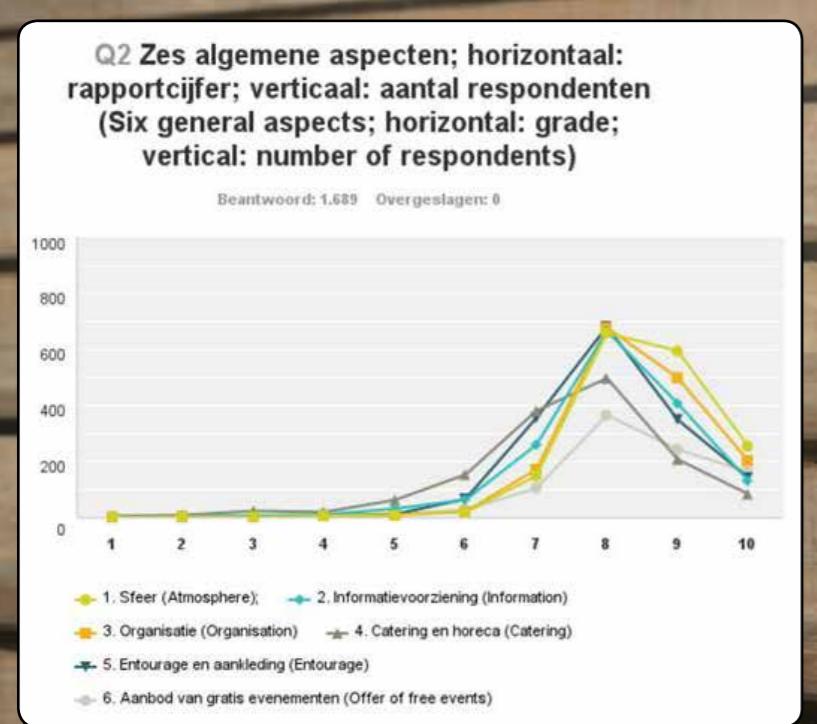
The number of people attending from Amsterdam and the Amsterdam region stayed at around 40%. The number of visitors from slightly further outlying areas (Haarlem, Leiden, Alkmaar, Het Gooi, Utrecht) was about 30%. 25% came from elsewhere in the Netherlands and 2% of the visitors had come from abroad.

Male and female, young and old, career backgrounds

At the 6th Cello Biennale, the ratio of women to men was about 2 to 1.

The number of young visitors was around a quarter (23.4%) and thus about the same as at the last Biennale. In fact, this represents a rise in absolute terms of almost 10% because the visitor numbers for 2016 rose by that percentage compared with 2014.

The share taken by the 35-49-year-old group fell slightly, from 15% to 11%, in relation to the previous CBA. The share occupied by the 50-65 year old group stayed the same, at 30%. The share of the group aged 65 and above rose from 29% to 35%. For the first time, the survey included some questions about the career backgrounds of the visitors. Almost 15% of the audience were now or had previously been in the medical or care professions. Around 15% worked or had worked at some point in education. The remainder of the respondents came from a very broad range of career backgrounds.



Marketing



The Cello Biennale is a strong brand. Media attention for the festival is significant. The name, which changed in 2014 from *Amsterdam Cello Biennale* to *Cello Biennale Amsterdam*, the new logo and new house style all appear to have fortified recognition even more. The festival colour theme for the Biennale in 2016 was a spectrum of purples and worked extremely well. The flags, posters, adverts, brochures, flyers and the festival handbook for this Biennale were all really striking.

Visibility

Increasing the visibility of the Cello Biennale in the public arena remained an objective in itself. More flags were set up around the Muziekgebouw and its front facade was decorated with an enormous Biennale logo in festival colours for five weeks. Triangular display boards and A0 posters were sited strategically through the city and we had A0 posters in Amsterdam metro stations for the first time. Posters and folders were also distributed in Utrecht, Haarlem, The Hague and Rotterdam.

Target groups

The festival's diverse programming reached a range of target groups. The hardcore classical music lovers were of course delighted to attend, but lovers of early music, contemporary music, non-Western, pop, jazz and improvisation also turned up at the festival. The target groups were professionals, music lovers, music and other students, school pupils, amateur musicians and any other member of the public who might be interested. Yet another audience was targeted via the festival's theme of *The Acting Cello*. Five (new) musical theatre productions had a steady flow of lovers of the cello and the theatre.

Approach to the target groups

The various target groups were approached on the one hand via channels that had been used successfully in past editions – such as distribution of brochures, flyers, posters, adverts, radio spots, newsletters, social media and online banners – and on the other hand via specific campaigns and the organisation of extra events. Specific offers in a number of newspapers and magazines exerted extra pulling power for what was sometimes a different audience (including *Het Parool*, *Trouw*, *NS Spoor Magazine* and *We are Public*).

Extra events, extra attention

The Cello Biennale had a prominent presence at the *Uitmarkt* 2016, with an appearance by the Cello Company on the main stage and the festival's own Biennale stand. The initiative of asking four well-known writers to write short stories about the cello generated extra attention from the media, a well-attended book presentation of *Vier Variaties voor Cello* at the OBA and appearances by the authors with young cellists at bookstores throughout the country. The second edition of *Cello&Film* at EYE, preceding the Cello Biennale, was a hit with audiences. The *Hello Cello Days* in four cities drew a lot of attention from local media.

Youngsters

The National Cello Competition, the International Masterclasses, the series of Lunchtime and Fringe concerts given by students from national and international conservatoires, a specific programming effort and the Cello Lounge (XL) made sure there were a lot of youngsters in attendance. A large, young, pop-oriented audience turned up for the evening concert by 2CELLOS Unplugged with the Ragazze Quartet and students from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam.

A specific arrangement made it highly attractive for students from national and international music colleges to attend the Cello Biennale. International students could visit all the events and concerts for €45 a day and were given vouchers for lunch and dinner. They could stay overnight at hostel rates on the dormitory ship Sir Winston, which was moored beside the Muziekgebouw. Dutch-based conservatoire students could buy an all-areas pass at a 50% discount, with the other 50% being paid by some of their conservatoires.

Website

The website is the most important sales portal of the Cello Biennale. Visits have increased by 21% in comparison with the Biennale of 2014. The site was completely overhauled in March 2014 and in October 2015, the site was restyled in the colours of the 2016 Biennale. The highest visitor figures were achieved in the period surrounding the Biennale. There were 19.367 unique visitors in total between 10 October and 1 November. The peak was on Sunday 23 October, with 2624 unique visitors on a single day. Between spring 2015 and fall 2016 the site has been visited by 64.829 people.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is an important, popularly read means of communication for the Biennale supporters. In the run-up to the festival the Newsletter was used to highlight various Biennale programmes with trailers and videos to push ticket sales. The Newsletter also included news items of the partners of the festival. In return Biennale news was included in their newsletters. In this way, the outreach of the newsletters was increased considerably. From early April 2016 (when ticket sales started) until the end of October, 10 newsletters were sent out.

Social media

The Cello Biennale 2016 was very active on social media. The number of people actively interacting with material dealing with the Biennale on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube showed a marked increase in growth. On Facebook the Cello Biennale now has 5,500 followers. This time Facebook was also used as a – paid – marketing tool. During the festival daily photo reports reached over 50,000 people. News of the Biennale also appeared on the social media of the festival partners. This festival, also Instagram was used and the use of Twitter was intensified. The Cello Biennale has an active following on all social media and the reach is growing every day.



Blogs and sites

The authors of various blogs, including Violinist.com, Cultuurpers.nl, Cinneville.nl and fd.nl attended the festival several times and produced reports in a way that was detailed, extensive and opinionated, which is rarely found in the printed media any longer. Announcements, photos and previews cropped up on all sorts of websites such as Kidsproof.nl, Eropuit.blog.nl, Elsevierjuist.nl, laatste-nieuws-online.eu, rss24.nl, versvandeindrakers.nl, hln.be, universonline.nl, operamagazine.nl and more.

Radio, TV and Webcast

The Cello Biennale 2016 was extensively documented in image and audio and could be listened to and seen on radio, TV and via webcasts.

Five festival evening events were broadcast live by Omroep Max on NPO Radio4. A further five concerts were recorded for subsequent broadcasting.

The Cello Biennale was featured in virtually all of the programmes on NPO Radio4, which also reported directly from the festival every day. The Biennale also featured on TV in VPRO's *Vrije Geluiden*, and *Podium Witterman* (on NPOtv) covered the festival on three occasions with live appearances by Nicholas Altstaedt, Daniel Müller-Schott, Julian Steckel and Bartolomey Bittmann.

Biennale TV

Nander Cirkel and Beitske de Jong, the producers behind the in-house Biennale TV, reported each day, with a total of nine broadcasts of around 6 minutes each. All of the Biennale TV broadcasts were uploaded immediately to the CBA Facebook page and the CBA YouTube channel. The reports as a whole

make up a superb retrospective of the festival and can be viewed on YouTube. The reports were also broadcast during the festival by Salto and NPO Cultura.

Before the festival, Biennale TV also prepared reports on *Cello&Film* at EYE and on the presentation of *Vier variaties voor Cello* at the Amsterdam Public Library.

To announce the Cello Biennale 2016, Brava TV broadcast previous Biennale TV reports from 2014 and the trailer for 2016 every day in the lead-up to the festival.

Newspapers and magazines

All of the national papers and a number of regional ones devoted space to the cello Biennale in terms of both reviews and write-ups. Articles and photos also appeared in *Het Parool*, *NRC/NRC Next*, *Volkskrant*, *Trouw*, *Letter&Geest*, *Telegraaf*, *VPRO Gids*, *Luister*, *Klassieke Zaken*, *Uitkrant*, *AVRO Kunst & Cultuur*, *IJopener*, *Espanje*, *Hollands Glorie* and *Spoor*. Foreign reporters wrote articles for *String & Bow* (South Korea) and *Sarasate* (Japan).

Financial

The financing of the Cello Biennale Amsterdam 2016 was made possible by income from box office receipts, merchandise, sales of programmes and advertising sales (28%), contributions from government funds (27%), private individual funds (36%), partners and sponsors (4%) and donations (5%).

Since 2013, the Cello Biennale has been supported by the Municipality of Amsterdam (16%). Details can be found in the annual financial report for 2016 (Maas Accountants).

Cello Biennale Amsterdam in the press

Celli kunnen ook beuken

Persis Bekkering

Amsterdam

Als tegenhanger van Amsterdam Dance Event ging dit weekend de Cello Biennale van start.

Aan de kade voor het Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ strijd een tiental felgekleurde banieren om de aandacht, wapperend in de wind: zwart-groen voor het Amsterdam Dance Event, roze voor de Cello Biennale. Roze wint het in aantal van zwart-groen. De ADE-programmering van het Muziekgebouw is dit weekend afgedropen naar de overkant van het IJ. Terwijl alles in de stad meetilt op het ritmische gebeuk van internationale top-djs, klinkt binnen in het gebouw de warme lyriek van de cello, het instrument dat het dichtst bij de menselijke stem komt. Versterking niet nodig.

De Biennale, een tiendaags festival waar traditioneel bijna de hele internationale celloscene van zich laat horen, ging vrijdag van start met uitverkochte concerten. Het programma is zoals altijd veelzijdig: vergeten celloconcerten, nieuwe Nederlandse composities, muziektheater, jazz, folk en flamenco. En het festival bestaat niet alleen uit concerten. Er is een concours voor jong talent, masterclasses van de beroemde cellisten die het festival bezoeken en elke ochtend Bach & Breakfast: croissantjes en jus terwijl sterren als Alisa Weilerstein de nederige taafelmuziek verzorgen.

Alsof hij zich wilde bewijzen tegenover verdwaalde ADE-bezoekers, liet

de cello in het openingsstuk horen ook behoorlijk te kunnen beuken, grommen en spacen. In *Unraveled*, een nieuw werk dat de verse Componist des Vaderlands Mayke Nas voor de Biennale schreef, zitten vier cellisten voor een wit gordijn. Met een knal zetten ze schurende tremolo's in, die soms stijgen en dalen in toonhoogte, maar waar nooit een melodie uit tevoorschijn komt.

Langzaamaan stijgt er van achter het gordijn geroffel op: Slagwerk Den Haag, volgens het programmaboekje. De slagwerkers versterken en verdiepen het geruis van de celli, er ontstaat een intrigerende mengklank. De cello komt perfect mee als slaginstrument.

Geleidelijk aan differentiëren de klanken zich. Houtblazers gaan zich ermee bemoeien, stotterende hoorns, etterende trompetten. Ook blijken er strijkers achter het gordijn te zitten, van het Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest onder leiding van dirigent Ed Spanjaard. De cello voor het gordijn spelen nu glijdende noten, gebroken akkoorden, de klank wordt dramatischer en wilder, maar kakofonisch wordt het nooit. Even krijgt de muziek iets dreigends. Het klinkt als een luchtaalarm.

Dan klinkt opeens een boormachine. Typisch Nas: in veel van haar composities dringen geinige omgevingsgeluiden door, in dit geval als gevolg van een fanaticus klussende buurman. Aan het slot van *Unraveled* duwt Nas alle afleiding echter de deur uit, en blijven alleen de vier celli over, met een ingetogen, metalig slotakkoord. Het zet de toon voor haar

Typisch Mayke Nas: in veel van haar composities dringen geinige omgevingsgeluiden door

De Volkskrant, 24 oktober 2016



Larissa Groeneveld, Timora Rosler, Jeroen den Herder en Jelena Ocic spelen *Unraveled*. Foto Ronald Knapp

Het fenomenale spel van de musici maakt Nomaden op de Cello Biennale tot **een belevenis van de eerste orde**.

Joël Bons brengt in zijn stuk meer rust en helderheid aan dan Rob Zuidam.

Zonder Bach, Haydn en Beethoven gaat het niet, maar bij de Cello Biennale hoort absoluut ook nieuwe muziek.

Het bijzonder succesvolle evenement bracht vrijdag een nieuw celloconcert van Rob Zuidam, uitgevoerd door het Rotterdamse Philharmonisch Orkest en de Russische cellist Ivan Monighetti.

Zuidam hanteert in de drie delen een idioom waarin de cello vooral lyrische lijnen uitstrijkt boven een harmonisch verzadigd orkestpalet. Het middendeel, *Ritter, Tod und Teufel*, is het meest extravert, met bijtende ritmes, jazzachtige tournuurs en special effects als getrommeld op de kast. De muziekvloot Zuidam als vanzelf uit de vingers, maar het verloop van het werk doet associatief aan.

Frits van der Waa

Cello Biennale
Klassiek

Glass, Zuidam en Dutilleux door het RPhO.

Nomaden, van Joël Bons door het Atlas Ensemble.

27 en 28/10,
Muziekgebouw,
Amsterdam.

Anika Beauquesne (12) strijkt mee in grootste cello-orkest



SCHOTEN - Anika Beauquesne (12) beleefde met haar deelname als enige nog jonge, maar veelbelovende muzikale

ionale Amsterdam is een groot tweejaarlijks internationaal cellofestival, negen dagen de ultieme ontmoetingsplaats en bron van inspiratie is en andere muziekliebhebbers uit de hele wereld. Het vindt momenteel in het Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam.

Beauquesne heeft ook aandacht voor jong talent en in dat kader paste het optreden van het Cello Orkest. Honderd zestig cello spelende kinderen en jongeren uit de hele wereld deden mee. Door hier als enige jonge Vlaamse in te spelen, ging voor Anika Beauquesne een droom in vervulling.

Gazet van Antwerpen, 27 oktober 2016

De Volkskrant, 31 oktober 2016

Bach, boor en rock op leukste cellofeest ter wereld

Klassiek

Cello Biennale met oa Ned. Philharmonisch Orkest, 2Cellos. Geh. 21 t/m 23/10 Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, Amsterdam.

•••••

Tachtig concerten in negen dagen én twaalf wereldpremières: de Cello Biennale Amsterdam is niet alleen het grootste cellofestival ter wereld, maar bewijst ook dat er wel degelijk publiek is voor avontuur, diepgang en focus - mits goed gebracht.

Deze zesde editie ligt die focus op 'the acting cello', maar het festival begon vrijdag met een flitsoptreden van het duo Bartholomey Bittman; cello beyond Bach, Beethoven en alle andere klassiekers die het festival aastoft.

Precies in dat kader viel vrijdag het openingsconcert, met twee ijzeren klassiekers die je zelden hoort:

Blochs *Schelomo* en het *Celloconcert* van Lalo. Ed Spanjaard slaagde er niet overal in het Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest voldoende te betrekken, waardoor het Muziekgebouw soms krap leek voor het (overweldigend luid) gebodene. Maar er waren sterke solopartijen: Antonio Meneses vol romantisch en rapsodisch in Bloch; Pieter Wispelwey in Lalo met

een edele, bedachtzame toon, individueel vertolkte hunkerig en lekker stroperige dansmotieven.

Nieuwe muziek is één van de pijlers van de biennale. Van 'componiste des vaderlands' Mayke Nas was er een wereldpremière: *Unraveled*, losjes gebaseerd op Ravel maar vooral herkenbaar door de geestige wijze waarop het dagelijks leven - i.e. een irritante boormachine - ritmisch het solerend cellokwartet penetreerde. Nas benadrukte met tremoli en glissandi fraai de weerbarstige kant van de cello,

maar haar stuk kwam vooral tot leven waar het kwartet in gesprek ging met orkest en slagwerk achter gordijn. Het lelijkste geluid van de biennale bleek zaterdagavond ook het populairste: het Kroatische duo 2Cellos verzorgde een concert onder Amsterdam Dance Event-achtige omstandigheden. 1350 veelal jongere bezoekers vulden de stoelenvrige grote zaal, waar cellisten Stjepan Hauser en Luka Šuli zich bewezen als dampend coverbandje dat de genres overstijgt.

Terwijl het begeleidende strijkorkestje op eieren moest lopen om de vrije timing van de Kroaten bij te houden, speelde het duo op doorzichtige elektrische cello's eerst een

NRC, 24 oktober 2016

Een griezelig goed geoliede cellomachine op de Biennale

Klassiek

CELLO BIENNALE

Gehoord 26 en 29/10,

Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ

★★★★★

Het Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ was de afgelopen tien dagen de hoofdstad van de cellowereld. En zoals het hoofdsteden betreft, was het een komen en gaan van mensen, jong en oud, die in dit geval allemaal een gemeenschappelijke liefde voor de cello hadden. Die liefde zorgde ervoor dat de zesde editie van de Cello Biennale Amsterdam de succesvolste werd in de geschiedenis van het festival.

Van 's morgens vroeg (elke dag speelde vanaf 9.30 uur een grote cello solo van Bach) tot in de late uurtjes was de belangstelling onverminderd groot. Wat is het toch met die cello dat daar zo veel mensen op afkomt?

De vraag stellen, is hem beantwoord. De cello is doodeenvoudig het mooiste instrument dat er bestaat, punt - in elke geval voor de duur van de Cello Biennale.

Wat is er mooier dan één cello? Antwoord: twaalf cellos. Maar misschien moeten dat dan wel Die 12 Cellisten der Berliner Philharmoniker zijn. Zij brachten een zoals bijna altijd tot de laatste stoel uitverkochte zaal tot een

schaafde extase met een programma waarin ze hun spectaculaire kwaliteiten voluit konden ontplooien.

De homogeniteit van het ensemble in bijvoorbeeld het openingsstuk - en niet eerst stemmen, maar hupsakee, meteen beginnen te spelen - het Allegro uit het zesde Brandenburgs concert van Bach, was ongelooflijk. Hier klonk een griezelig goed geoliede cellomachine.

Het programma had twee absolute hoogtepunten: *Figure humaine* van Francis Poulenc, oorspronkelijk een stuk voor dubbelkoor, maar door David Riniker bijzonder fraai gespeeld. De door en door Franse, mondiale harmonieën kwamen ademend als één lichaam tot leven.

Erg goed gelukt was ook het eerste deel van Chiel Meijerings opdrachtstuk *Whatever lies ahead*, een diffus aquaerel van klank; ijl, etherisch, maar vol spannende tonen. Het tweede deel van een woeste dans. Na afloop was de opwinding groot en zo ook het appaus.

De vraag stellen, is hem beantwoord. De cello is doodeenvoudig het mooiste instrument dat er bestaat, punt - in elke geval voor de duur van de Cello Biennale.

Het was sowieso een goed weekende voor Nederlandse componisten, want daags tevoren had het Atlas Ensemble onder leiding van Ed Spanjaard het even energerende als ontroerende *Nomaden* van Joël Bons doorgehouden. Z'n meesterwerk, durven we te stellen. Het Atlas Ensemble is een verzameling virtuozen uit alle windstreken, met een

erhu, een Chinese viool, naast een westers viool, en Bons is de eerste componist die er werkelijk in is geslaagd een volledig geslaagde synthese tot stand te brengen. (Hij zal dit zelf tegenspreken.)

Het was alsof *Nomaden* de muziek opnieuw werd uitgevonden, waarbij het bijzonder knap is hoe goed Bons zijn vertrekpunten (Stravinsky, Boulez, Donatoni, maar ook The Beatles) heeft weten samen te voegen tot een nieuwe, sprankelende klank, die zowel op microniveau (de nootjes, de muziek, de solo's) als op macroniveau (de verbroedering van volken en hun esthetieken) diep ontroert. En dan hebben we het nog niet eens gehad over het aandeel van soloist Jean-Guilhem Queyras, die met zichtbaar plezier schitterende tonen op zijn cello zat te strijken.

Om te janken is dus het gekmakende besef dat dit het laatste grote project was van dit briljante Atlas Ensemble, want ze kriegen geen cent subsidie meer.

Erik Voermans

Om te janken dat dit het laatste grote project van het Atlas Ensemble was

Prachtig geprogrammeerd cellofeest waar echt wat te ontdekken valt

Klassiek

Cello Biennale Amsterdam Met o.a. Orkest van de Achttiende Eeuw (23/10) en Cappella A'dam (25/10) en div. cellisten. Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ. Terugluisteren: radio4.nl

•••••

Het was een vertrouwd én vreemd gezicht, het kaartje voor het concert van zondagavond tijdens de Cello Biennale. Het Orkest van de Achttiende Eeuw speelde en op het kaartje stond de naam Brüggen - zo leek het even alsof het orkest 'gewoon' met zijn dirigent en oprichter Frans Brüggen op zou treden (de dirigent overleed in augustus 2014). De Brüggen van de avond was echter Albert Brüggen, een neef en vast tutti-cellist van het orkest. Nu maakte hij zijn opwachting als solist.

De Cello Biennale is een prachtig geprogrammeerd cellofeest waar echt wat te ontdekken valt, en het stuk waarin Albert Brüggen soleerde mag dankzij de biennale aan een tweede leven beginnen. Robert Volkmanns *Celloconcert in a klein* uit 1853 was in zijn tijd populairder dan het celloconcert van Robert Schumann. Het is een geraffineerd werk en Brüggen speelde het als een waar verteller.

Maar het hoogtepunt was het *Dubbelconcert* van Johannes Brahms, waarin cellist Jean-Guilhem Queyras (op staelen snaren) samenspeelde met violist Shunsuke Sato. Sato's verfijnde, haast vibratolose spel is door de barokmuziek gevormd. Het werd een boeiende en opzwepende ontmoeting; een *Dubbelconcert* doordrenkt van positiviteit in plaats van donkere tragiek.

Dinsdagavond stond een andere hit op het programma: het *Requiem* van Gabriel Fauré, maar dan in een arrangement van Jacobus den Herder voor koor (Cappella Amsterdam) en een ensemble van tien cellisten. Een interessant experiment, maar niet voor herhaling vatbaar. Ook al ging Fauré zelf al vrij met de instrumenten om, nu werd pas duidelijk hoezeer het *Requiem* om klankkleur draait. Een cello in de hoogte is nu eenmaal dominanter dan een altviool op dezelfde toon; het leverde een wat onrustig geheel op. En die mooie eruptie in 'Osanna in excelsis' was wel heel tam.

Merlijn Kerkhof

NRC, 28 oktober 2016

Heather Kurzbauer Live from Amsterdam: Cello Biennale 2016

October 27, 2016, 3:07 PM

AMSTERDAM -- An unexpected turn of events kept this aficionado far from the hustle and bustle at Amsterdam's ingenious multipurpose venue, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ during the excitement of the [Amsterdam Cello Biennale](#)'s opening days. The Cello Biennale is an international cello festival, which is, for ten days, the ultimate meeting place and source of inspiration for cellists and other musicians from around the world.

Nevertheless, great news about great music travelled deep in the wilds of western China, (where I was stuck) thanks to [web formational clips](#) and daily photo posts to tempt the imagination.

Midway through the world's greatest cellofest, I was treated to an evening concert featuring three famed cellists in a Brahms Soirée. True to the experimental nature of the Cello Biennale, the concert included lesser-known gems by Anton Webern and the prolific German-Dutch

Violonist.com, 27 oktober 2016

master Julius Röntgen. Starting the evening with a fanciful rendition of Röntgen's contrapuntally satisfying sonata, Nicolas Altstaedt conveyed a fresh, transparency often missing in standard interpretations. Blessed with a larger-than-life stage personality, Altstaedt knows how to convince the public of the veracity of his interpretations. The confidence with which he conveyed three Webern selections, the Sonate voor cello and piano, Zwei Stücke und Drie kleine Stücke carried the fragile atonality to new heights. He stretched notes into silence proving to the listener that concise forms create their own eloquence. José Gallardo accompanied with guts and panache.

Festival fathers Maarten Mostert and Johan Dorrestein possess the good sense to know when to innovate and when to remain true to the glories of the past six biennales. A tried and true feel-good early morning ritual at the Biennale is the daily presentation of Bach & Breakfast featuring festival stars. The morning crew is treated to croissants and coffee served by some of the people who masterminded the event. No hierarchy here, but a true welcome to the Netherlands in the spirit of four-stringed friendship. On a misty Thursday morning, Alisa Weilerstein transported a hushed audience into her blissful Bach cosmos with a rendition of the Cello Suite in d that combined powerful intellect with technical ease. Stay tuned for more!

Boek van de dag

De cello van alle kanten

In het kader van de Cello Biennale (20-29 oktober, Amsterdam) werd aan vier bekende schrijvers gevraagd een verhaal over dit instrument te schrijven. Van Jan Brokken is er een verhaal over een wereldberoemde cello, Ilja Leonard Pfeijffer laat het instrument allerlei bijzondere klanken voortbrengen, bij Marente de Moor heeft de cello zelfs de kracht om de fundering van een huis te ontwrichten en Annelies Verbeke laat een celliste een akelige dood sterven. Vrijdag wordt de bundel gepresenteerd in de OBA Amsterdam, op 1 oktober geeft Jan Brokken een lezing bij boekhandel Blokker in Heemstede. 'Vier variaties voor cello'. Uitg. Podium, €15.



'Hello Cello' in Zwolle als voorproefje festival



BINNENSTAD - De cello staat op zaterdag 8 oktober een dag lang centraal in Zwolle. Tussen 08.45 en 16.45 uur kunnen jong en oud genieten van de cello op drie verschillende locaties: het ArtEZ Conservatorium, Waanders In de Broeren en Schouwburg Odeon.

Hello Cello Zwolle is een voorproefje van 's wereld grootste cellofestival dat op 20 oktober losbarst: de Cello Biennale in het Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ & het Bimhuis in Amsterdam. Op 8 oktober is het publiek in Zwolle welkom om te luisteren naar de masterclasses, de workshops en de diverse concerten die op verschillende locaties gegeven worden. Het beluisteren van deze ac-

tiviteiten is gratis. Het Hello Cello Orkest onder leiding van Oene van Geel laat om 15.30 uur in het ArtEZ Conservatorium horen wat zij die dag hebben ingestudeerd.

De ArtEZ docenten Karlien Bartels en René Berman geven met het ArtEZ Cello Ensemble een concert in Waanders In de Broeren om 16.00 uur. De 'cellodag' duurt van 8.45 tot 16.45 uur.

De Swollenaren 26 september 2016

Gooi- en Eemlander, 28 september 2016

Betwixt and between the plethora of concert offerings ranging from Bach & Breakfast to late night extravaganzas featuring the likes of 2Cellos and, there are master classes given simultaneously in two locations, special children's events and exhibits by cello makers, bow makers who invite all to question, test and learn. If pinned to the wall to mention just one distinguishing feature of the Biennale, I would be tempted to opt for its multiple offerings: over and beyond the concert hall, it's the buzz in the hall, the creation of a meeting place for musicians, musical experts and first-timers to get into the cello groove.

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Het zweele geluid van de



Ode aan de cello
De cellobiënnale
Amsterdam die deze
donderdag begint is het
grootste cellofestival ter
wereld. Wat maakt de
cello zo geliefd?

Door Mischa Speijer en Fons Don



Vorm

De celoleraar van mijn dochter betoverde haar omlangs met een truc: schil een sinaasappel in één lijn, en leg die schil plat op tafel. Wat zie je? Precies het f-gat zoals viool, alt, cello en bas die hebben. Daar zijn vele (speculatieve) artikelen over geschreven. Maar het aangezicht van de schil treft vooral omdat het je het inzicht geeft dat vorm en inhoud geen gescheiden paramters zijn, maar in elkaar verlengde liggen.

Cello's zijn er in vele maten en kwaliteiten. Een bruikbare studiecello koop je voor 2.000 euro, de duurste was de Dupont-Stradivarius (1711) - bespeeld door (poging) Napoleon en Mstislav Rostropovitsj, en recentelijk gevuld voor 20 miljoen dollar. Een kleuter kan beginnen op een 1/16 (klankkast 37,5 cm), sommige vrouwtjes eindigen bij een 7/8 (71,25 cm).

Een hele cello moet zo'n 75 cm, een grootte nauw verwant aan de menselijke romp. Dat geven spreekt tot de verbeelding. Bijvoorbeeld van Man Ray, getuige zijn iconische foto *Le Violon d'Ingres* van een blote vrouwengru. Een recent horrorvoorbereid bood de tv-serie *Hammer* (spin-off van *The Silence of the Lambs*) waarin een van de moordslachtoffers tot cello is omgebouwd.

In bredere kring is Mstislav ('Slava') Rostropovitsj (1927-2007) de cellopaus van de 20ste eeuw, ook door de wijze waarop zijn leven en werk vervlochten waren met de politiek.

Rostropovitsj heef Sjostakovitsj en Prokofjev persoonlijk gekend, ze waren zijn leraren, schreven werken voor hem en Rostropovitsj speelde de première van Sjostakovitsj' beide celloconcerten. In dat opzicht was hij van ongeslagen statuur: geen andere cellist inspireerde zo veel componisten (Britten, Dutilleux, Penderecki, Messiaen en Boulez).

De Britse Jacqueline du Pré (1945-1987), levens- en kamermuziekpartner van pianist/directeur Daniel Barenboim, was een fenomenaal natuurtalent. Haar uitvoering van Elgars *Celloconcert* is nog steeds onmisbaar (de aan haar gewijde, melodramatische biopic *Hilary and Jacky* iets minder).

En dan is er nog de intelligente en virtuoos-sensitieve Janos Starker (1924-2013), die onder veel meer Kodály's *Sonate voor cello solo* (1915) onsterfelijk maakte. (MS)



Timbre

Ook in timbre, stemming (C-G-D-A) en bereik is de cello van alle muziekinstrumenten het meest nauw verwant aan de menselijke stem. De laagste noot (de losse C-snaar) valt ongeveer samen met de laagste noot die een (erg) lage mannenstem kan voortbrengen. En hoewel de cello in theorie hoger reikt dan welke sopraan ook valt het gebruikelijk bereik ongeveer samen met dat van een coloratuursopraan. (MS)



Speelwijze

De zittend, tussen de benen bespeelde cello is een sexy instrument - ongeacht de bespeler. Met als gevolg? Een rijkdom aan referenties in literatuur en films. Wat was Bond-girl Kara in *The Living Daylights* zonder haar cello (en de gendarmerie sleetach in een cellokist)? Wat bleef er over van de nautisch-historische romantiek van *Master and Commander*? En was de weerbarstige turksheid van Kolya überhaupt charmant geweest zonder het milde contrapunt van de cello?

Uiteraard liet en laat ook de erotische industrie de cello niet links liggen. Een knipoog daarnaar is de celloscène uit *The Witches of Eastwick*. Susan Sarandon neemt de cello ter hand en verliest zich, met borrende blikken en hypnotische bariton aangespoeld door Jack Nicholson ('You have great passion in you, let it out!') in Dvoraks *Celloconcert* - tot alle heen en weer pulserende lust de cello spontaan in vlammen doet ontsteken.

Maar ook losgezonken van zijn seksuele connotatie is de cello het aangewenste instrument voor wie houdt van een fysieke band met zijn

instrument. Natuurlijk: bespelers van blaasinstrumenten zingen via hun instrument en ook instrumenten als harp, gitaar en accordeon bespeel je direct tegen je lichaam aan. Maar die omvat je toch op een minder intieme wijze dan de cello. (MS)



Legendarische cellisten

Volgens de geweldige Nederlandse cellist Anne Blijlsma zijn cellisten altijd aardige mensen. Hoe dan ook kent de cellogeschiedenis talrijke bespelers. De Catalaanse cellist Pablo Casals (1876-1976), voor velen de grootste cellist ooit, is vermaard voor zijn legendarische opname van Bachs cello suites. Een generatie jonger en volgens sommigen in dramatische expressie van nog intenser slagkracht: Gregor Piatigorski (1903-1976). De celloconzerten van Prokofjev en Hindemith zijn aan hem opgedragen. Dat laatste trof diens in Wenen opgegroeide generatiegenoot Emanuel Feuermann (1902-1942), een vergelijkbare groothoed.

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Bach

Wat er uit die klangaten van de cello kwam, was „aardser en extaticker dan wat ik ooit gehoord had“. Aldus de Canadese ex-poppionair Eric Siblin over zijn eerste toevallige ervaring met de cellosuites van Bach, waar hij het boek *The Cello Suites* over schreef. Voor geen enkel instrument, misschien het orgel uitgezonderd, speelt Bach zo'n belangrijke rol als voor de cello: de zes solosuites vormen het Oude Testament én het belangrijkste emancipatiehetschrift voor het instrument.

Sinds Pablo Casals de suites herontdekte en in de jaren 1930 voor het eerst op plaat zette, is elke zichzelf respecterende carrièrecellist hem gevolgd. Opvallende opnames zijn de Slavische interpretatie van Rostropovitsj, de strenge van Janos Starker en de dansante van Blijlsma. De suites zijn gebaseerd op traditionele dansritmes als sarabande en menuet, en hebben alle zes een eigen toonsoort en eigen karakter: van de naïef optimistische Eerste via de peinzende Vierde naar de hemelbestormende Zesde. Tijdens de Cellobiënnale komen ze zes oochtenden beurtelings langs, gecombineerd met een croissant. (FD)



Rock & cello

Het was een hit bij heldere hemel: in de jaren negentig besloten de vier langharige Finnen van Apocalyptica de hardrock van Metallica op versterkte cello's uit te voeren. De lyriek van *Nothing Else Matters* bleek op cello nog beter te werken, en de met contrabasshars ingesmeerde strijkkosten deden in *One* niet onder voor beukende gitaren. Apocalyptica kon proffiteren van de reikwijdte van het instrument: van de basgitaraartige laagte tot en met ijzelige flageolets waar de menselijke stem nauwelijks bij komt. Meest succesvolle navolgers: 2Cellos, zaterdag te horen op de Cellobiënnale. Miljoenen YouTube-keren werden hun bewerkingen van Michael Jackson en AC/DC bekeken. (FD)

Aanraders

Openingsconcert: nieuw werk van de kersverse Componist des Vadersland, Mayke Nas. En:

Pieter Wispelwey speelt het Celloconcert in d-groot van Lalo. 21/10, 20.15u

Hoe goed gaan flamenco en cello samen? Met onder anderen Ella van Poucke. 22/10, 20.15u

Het Dubbelconcert van Brahms klinkt 'authentiek' met het Orkest van de Achttiende Eeuw en Shunske Sato op viool en als cellist Jean-Guihen Queyras. 23/10, 19u

De twaalf cellisten van de Berliner Philharmoniker spelen op de slotdag onder meer een bewerking van Poulencs *Figure humaine*. 29/10, 16.30u

Merlijn Kerkhof

ALEXANDER WARENBERG

'Filosofieles maakt mijn cellospel rijker'

Cellist Alexander Warenberg won onlangs het concours van de Cello Biennale en studeert nu aan de eliteaire Barenboim Akademie.

Rijzende sterren zijn er bij bosjes, maar het moet heel raar lopen wil Alexander Warenberg (18) in november winnaar van het concours van de Cello Biennale, niet een heel grote worden. Vader Ilya speelt viool in het Residentie Orkest, oom Wladislav cello in het Rotterdamse Philharmonisch. Alexander wist op zijn vijfde dat het de cello moet worden, en niets dan de cello. „Ik ging met mijn vader mee naar concerten, soms zelfs op tournee. De cellogroep trok me dan altijd het meest. Tegenzin in het studeren, nee, daar heb ik nooit last van gehad.“

Als Russische afkomst van zijn familie van vaders kant, vooruit, die zal best van belang zijn geweest. „Mijn vader geeft me nog vaak les, en wat hij me leert over vibrato en toonvorming vind ik van grote waarde.“ Maar als je ‘Russische roots’ associateert met een strenge opvoeding of dwang, zit je in zijn geval fout. „Ik hoeft echt niet van mijn ouders, ik wilde zelf heel graag.“ Voor zijn zus Maria geldt dat overigens ook: die werd zangeres.

En Barenboim zelf? Die is hij één keer tegen het lijf gelopen, in de lift. „Hij vroeg of ik even tijd had. Toen hebben we de *Arpeggiione-sonate* van Schubert samen gespeeld.“

Het volgend seizoen soleert Warenberg, uniek voor een tiener, bij het Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest én het Residentie Orkest. Dat is ook zijn toekomstdroom: solist worden, en daarnaast kamermuziek maken. Als de Mork of de

Rostropovitsj van zijn generatie. Hij werkt er hard voor, want de concurrentie is moordend. Een goede studiedag omvat zes uur studeren. Als er vele filosofie-essays af moeten, vier uur. Maar soms is er ook tijd voor tennissen, of koken. „Het belangrijkste is dat je, hoe gloeiend je ook je best doet, óók alles met plezier doet. Dat lukt niet altijd. Maar het is fundamenteel ernaar te blijven streven.“

Mischa Spel

Concerten: 12/2, 20:15, Conservatorium Maastricht. 12/3 Kamermuziekfestival Schiermonnikoog.

► rijzende ster



NRC, 5 januari 2017



MUZIEKFESTIVAL

Heel, heel, héél veel cello's

Het grootste celofestival ter wereld heeft klassieke sterren op het programma als Jean-Guihen Queyras, Pieter Wispelwey en de gehele cellosectie van het Berliner Philharmoniker. Ze spelen werken van onder anderen Brahms, Beethoven, Ravel, Poulenc en Lalo. Ook wordt nieuw werk van de Componist des Vaderlands, Mayke Nas, uitgevoerd. Naast grote concerten met orkesten als het Rotterdamse Philharmonisch, Amsterdam Sinfonietta en het Residentie Orkest, is er ook veel kamermuziek.

Cello Biennale. Amsterdam, diverse locaties, t/m zaterdag 29 okt. Int: cellobiennale.nl

CELLO BIENNALE AMSTERDAM 2016



Bach & Breakfast

In Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, Amsterdam

Op donderdag 20 oktober barst het grootste celofestival van de wereld los in Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ te Amsterdam. Niet meer weg te denken tijdens de Cello Biennale is Bach&Breakfast. Zes ochtenden beginnen het festival om 9.30 uur met een cellosuite van Bach, een kop koffie, een warme croissant en verse jus. De suites worden uitgevoerd door de grootmeesters Torleif Thedéen (za 23 okt), Ivan Monighetti (mr 24 okt), Daniel Müller-Schott (di 25 okt), Alisa Weilerstein (do 27 okt), Gregor Hirsch (vr 28 okt) en Julian Steckel (za 29 okt).

Voor Trouw-lezers kosten kaarten voor Bach&Breakfast tijdens de Cello Biennale Amsterdam €10,- (l.p.v. €15,-), het Festivalboek is verkrijgbaar voor €5,- (l.p.v. €7,50).

Ga naar trouw.nl/exclusief om uw kaarten te bestellen

Trouw, 8 oktober 2014

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Casals circle

De Casals Circle consists of groups of friends of around 10 members per group, who support the activities of the Biennale in the field of development of talent and education with an annual gift of €1000. The groups are formed by enthusiastic Biennale supporters, For the members of the Casals Circle the Cello Biennale organizes exclusive concerts and meetings both during the festival and after the festival. Such groups of friends have been formed by Marjoleine de Boorder, Jolande en Willem Calkoen-Nauta, René en Liesbeth Citroen, Frans Cladder en Dorry van Haersolte, Saskia Laseur-Eelman, Jenika van der Torren en Anton en Tineke Valk.

Friends and donors

An ever-increasing circle of steadfast friends supports the Biennale with single or annually recurrent gifts. Their contributions form an indispensable element of the foundations of the Cello Biennale Amsterdam. The Biennale expresses its thanks to the many friends and donors.

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**The seventh Cello Biennale
Amsterdam will be held
from Thursday 18 to
Saturday 27 October 2018**

**The Sneak Preview will take place on Friday
10 November 2017.**

No Cello Biennale without volunteers

The 6th edition of the Cello Biennale came about with the assistance of a team of 35 volunteers. Not just during, but also in the run-up to the festival, they assist with innumerable matters, large and small, including flyer-posting, sending out mailing circulars, preparing welcome packs and posting lots of messages on social media.

The day starts early during the festival itself: the fresh juice shift is ready around 7.30 for Bach & Breakfast. They squeeze more than 11,000 oranges in total. Volunteers then go on to man the information and merchandise desks and the production office, where artists are greeted or taken to rehearsals, stages are built and dismantled, errands are run, the website is kept up-to-date and flowers are handed out. During the evening concert, the Entrée Hall or restaurant Zouthaven is transformed into a lounge and, in the small hours, the last shift of volunteers converts it back into an entrée hall or a restaurant. All set for a new day...

Our team of volunteers is an outstanding mix of special people, with warm feelings for the cello and the Cello Biennale. Their unbridled efforts set the special tone that makes the Biennale stand out from the crowd.

The volunteers of 2016

Marieke Bekirov	Esther ten Kate
Rachelle Berends	Marina Kok
Kalle de Bie	Gerrit Kracht
Maren Bosma	Falou Lansink
Eveline van Cleeff	Liesbeth Nienhuis
Merel Dercksen	Els van den Oever
Chieko Donker Duyvis	Birgit Oyen
Angela Escauriaza	Ineke Overtoom
Francisco Fernandez Ruiz	Robert Ploem
Hannah Feltkamp	Dirk Rietveld
Sara Gabalawi	Pauline Ruys-Lee
Nollie van Gool	Eva van Schaik
Romina Granata	Eva Schierbeek
Charlotte Gulikers	Lennart van der Sman
Eva Halbersma-Nagy	Catarina Tavora
Peter Halbersma	Renée Timmer
Brit de Jong	Simon Velthuis
Lisa Jonk	Melle de Vries

Colophon

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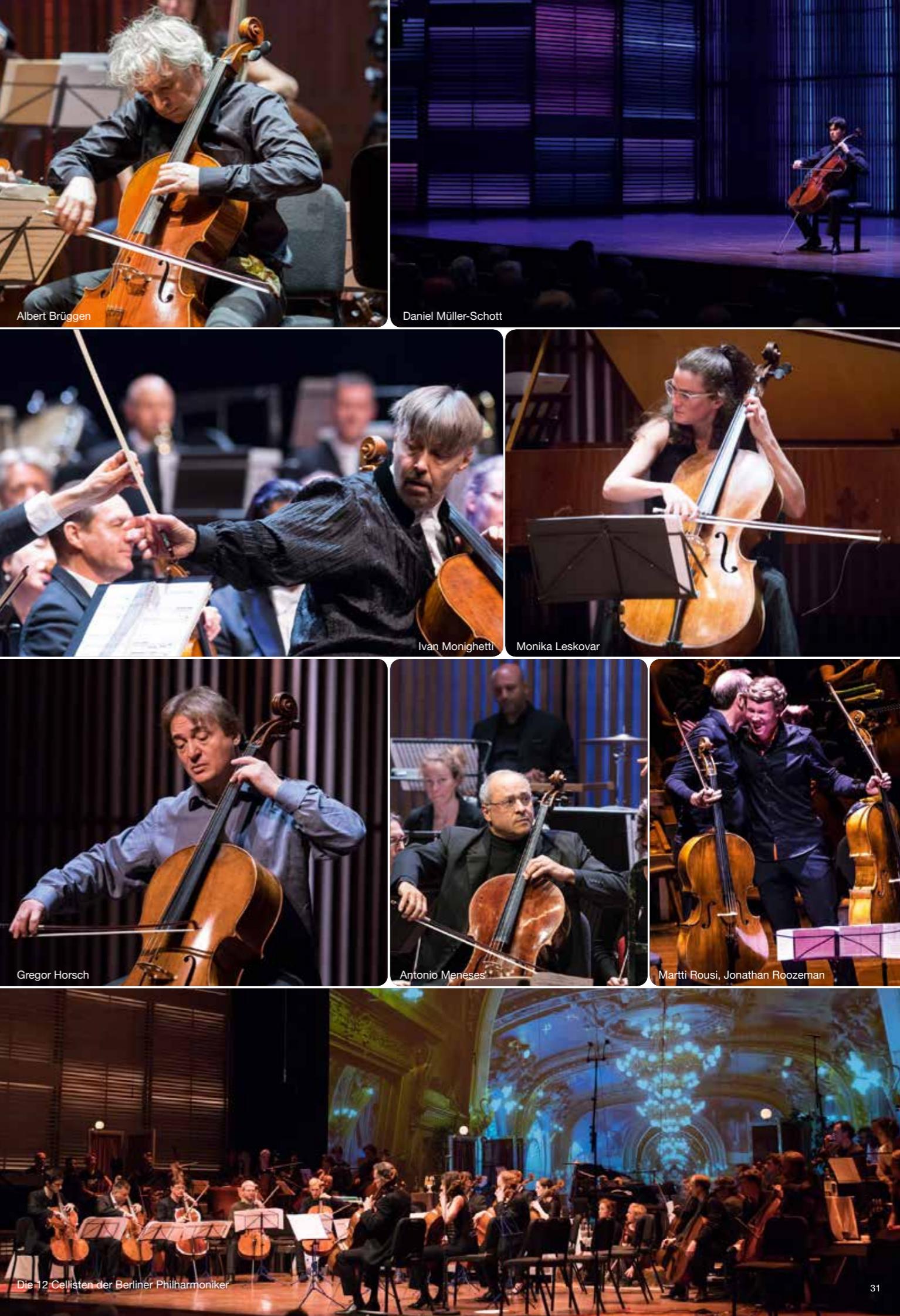
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'For ten days in a row, the most beautiful instrument in the world throbbed, buzzed, hummed, sang, whined, screamed, grumbled, whispered, mumbled, sniggered, shrieked and rejoiced in the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ. Of course, this could only happen at the Cello Biennale Amsterdam.'

Het Parool

'Right from the start, I was bowled over by this festival. You could easily describe it as a love story. You'll come across the entire galaxy you might dream of featuring the cello in Amsterdam'.

Jean-Guihen Queyras in the VPRO Gids

'Your best option: put Amsterdam on your dance card for the last week in October 2018, a splendid edition of the Cello Biennale awaits'.

Violinist.com

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