



# The Johannesburg International Mozart Festival

Originally organized in 2006 in commemoration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th birthday anniversary, the Johannesburg International Mozart Festival has developed into a highly successful and well-loved annual classical music event, with popular conductor Richard Cock at the helm as Music Director, together with concert pianist Florian Uhlig as Artistic Director.

**T**he 6th Johannesburg International Mozart Festival (JIMF) will take place from 25 January to 9 February 2014, with a one-off post-Festival Valentine's concert on 14 February. The 2014 Festival will explore love's delights and dilemmas, with the theme "Un' aura amorosa".

After the success of last year's pre-concerts, which completely sold out in just two days, there will be another two pre-festival concerts – on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 January – which take the form of a Viennese New Year's Concert, with music and dance.

The Festival will begin in earnest on Monday 27 January, in commemoration of the birthdate of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and will take place at various venues in Johannesburg and – this year for the first time – Pretoria. This year's programme will explore musical interpretations of "Un' aura amorosa - love's delights and dilemmas" – a homage to the tensions expressed in Mozart's opera *Così fan Tutte*.

The JIMF programme will again include various symphony concerts, recitals and workshops. The following are some of the renowned musicians that will be performing:

Annegret Kuttner teaches at the Academy of Music and Theatre, Leipzig. In addition to her teaching post, the highly sought-after pianist regularly performs as a soloist and chamber musician in diverse musical and cultural centres in Germany and abroad. Concert tours have taken her to the Czech Republic, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, Latvia, Ireland, South Africa and the USA. In New York she performed Beethoven's complete works for cello and piano together with cellist Peter Bruns. This concert was extremely well received by the public and press alike.

Highlights of Anton Nel's nearly four decades of concertizing include performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, the symphonies of Chicago, San Francisco, Dallas, Seattle, Detroit, and London, among many others. (He has an active repertoire of more than 100 works for piano and orchestra.) As recitalist he has appeared at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, Davies Hall in San Francisco, and the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Internationally he has performed recitals in major concert halls in Canada, England (Queen Elizabeth and Wigmore Halls in London), France, Holland (Concertgebouw in Amsterdam), Japan (Suntory Hall in Tokyo), Korea, and South Africa.

The Buskaid Trust was founded in the UK in 1992 by British viola player Rosemary Nalden in response to a BBC programme highlighting the difficulties besetting a string project in Diepkloof, Soweto. Rosemary enlisted the support of 120 distinguished UK professional musicians who took part in a simultaneous fundraising 'Busk' at 16 British Rail Stations in aid of the young African musicians. A number of similar charitable events were held over the next few years.

The Ensemble has played five times under the baton of Sir John Eliot Gardiner, and in collaboration with such distinguished artists as Bernarda Fink and Steven Isserlis. It has performed several times in the presence of Nelson Mandela, for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, HRH

Prince Charles and other members of the British Royal family, as well as for many distinguished foreign dignitaries, including the First Lady of the United States of America, Mrs Michelle Obama.

The Erfurt-born tenor Christoph Genz received his first musical training as a member of the St. Thomas Boys' Choir in Leipzig. He continued his studies in musicology at King's College, Cambridge, where he was also a member of King's College Choir. He studied voice under Hans-Joachim Beyer at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Leipzig and with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. He won first prize at the International Singing Competition in Grimsby, England, and the first prize at the International J.S. Bach Competition in Leipzig.

Clare Loveday was awarded a Doctorate of Music in 2009. She worked in the 1990s as a pianist, playing in musicals and theatre venues and on cruise ships on the Southern African oceans. In the late 1990s Clare returned to academic life at Wits as a part-time lecturer in music theory and took up a full time lectureship in music theory and composition in 2004. Best known for her 'straight' saxophone compositions and interdisciplinary collaborations, she has worked

appeared at Palau de la Musica Barcelona, at Vienna Konzerthaus and at Music Festivals such as 'Loisiarte', 'Schwäbischer Frühling', 'Schloss Cappenberg', 'Grafenegg'. In 2011/12 she performed amongst others with the Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen under Ola Rudner, the Florida Orchestra under Stefan Sanderling and the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra under Fabio Luisi.

Florian Uhlig is 'one of the most individual and imaginative young pianists of our time' (Musical Opinion). He is renowned for his creative resourcefulness and his wide-ranging repertoire from Bach to contemporary composers, which he combines in inventive and original programmes. Constantly searching to explore the possibilities of musical expression, Uhlig is also dedicated to composition, improvisation, musicological research and projects with literature. In addition to his work as a soloist, Florian Uhlig is a much sought-after chamber musician and lead pianist.

At the age of 21, Hyeyoon Park has emerged as one of the most promising violinists of her generation. She received the prestigious London Music Masters Award 2012-2015, the London Borletti-Buitoni



with a number of award winning artists including Gerhard Marx and Nandipha Mntambo. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, grants, including one from the Mellon Foundation, commissions from organisations such as SAMRO and performers such as Jill Richards, the Royal College of Music Saxophone Ensemble and Ensemble Reconsil Vienna. She has had works performed throughout South Africa and in Australia, Europe, England and the US, including at the ISCM World New Music Days and Festival d'Automne à Paris. She is currently a post-doctoral research fellow at North-West University.

Cornelia Herrmann is a sought-after chamber musician. In 2010/11 Cornelia Herrmann played a recital tour throughout Japan and also worked together with the Gewandhaus Quartet Leipzig. She has

Trust Award 2011 and she has also won the 1st Prize of the 58th ARD International Music Competition 2009 in Munich, alongside two special prizes. At only 17 years old, she was the youngest ever winner in the history of the competition.

Magdalena de Vries started percussion at the age of 15, and within a few years won a number of South African music prizes and national scholarships.

She holds performer's licentiate diplomas (with distinction) from both the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and the University of South Africa, a BMus from UNISA as well as a postgraduate diploma (cum laude) from the Tokyo College of Music in Japan where she studied as the first foreign



student under Professor Atsushi Sugahara. While in Japan, she performed both as soloist and chamber musician.

South African born Njabulo Madlala is the Standard Bank Young Artist for Music of 2014, winner of the 2010 Kathleen Ferrier Competition, of the Singer Sections Final at the 2012 Royal Overseas League Competition, of the 2012 Lorna Viol Memorial Prize and Royal Overseas League Trophy for the Most Outstanding Musician From Overseas, the Sir John Manduell Award for an Outstanding South African Musician and of a 2012 Worshipful Company of Musicians Award.

The cellist Peter Bruns has established an excellent reputation in the international music world as one of Germany's leading cellists. Born in Berlin, he studied with Professor Peter Vogler at Berlin's Hanns Eisler School of Music. Peter Bruns has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in renowned concert halls throughout Europe, America and Asia, including in the Berliner Philharmonie, the Carnegie Hall in New York, the Wigmore Hall in London, in concert halls in Tokyo and Hong Kong, in the Semperoper Dresden, in the Leipziger Gewandhaus as well as at festivals such as the Kuhmo, Bergen, Berlin and Dresden music festivals, the Budapest Spring Festival and Gidon Kremer's Lockenhaus festival.

Reiner Schneider-Wartenberg was born in Namibia, attended the local Deutsche Schule Otjiwarongo and then Michaelhouse, where he obtained the best matric results in Natal. He then studied at Stellenbosch University where he completed three degrees cum laude and received the faculty medal. He also sang in the University Choir. He was subsequently awarded a scholarship to Cambridge to study International Relations. There he sang in the Trinity College Choir and established himself as a counter-tenor soloist. He finally left

his academic pursuits behind to study singing at the Mozarteum in Salzburg and the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Basel, Switzerland. It was here that he started to retrain the baritone range of his voice.

Since returning to South Africa Richard Cock has been an SABC producer, Director of Music at St. Mary's Cathedral, Director of the Chanticleer Singers and the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg, and a conductor of note.

Rosemary Nalden, founder of Buskaid and Director of the Buskaid Music School in Soweto, was born in England and educated in New Zealand, where she graduated Bachelor of Arts in Languages, before studying viola and singing at the Royal College of Music in London.

The Symphony Choir of Johannesburg was established in 1947 by Edgar Cree as the SABC Choral Society. Since 1980, the choir has grown and evolved under the leadership of Richard Cock, and has become the leading choir of its type in South Africa. Its concerts are regularly broadcast nationwide on SAFM.

Nandipha Mntambo is a fine artist based in Johannesburg. Mntambo's signature material is cowhide. Across cultures and belief-systems a relationship to the cow is universal, however different this relationship may be. Mntambo focus is on the female body, often using her own, and she creates "empty" yet very corporeal sculptures where the shape of the female body collides with the lumpy and coarse cowhide and disrupt conventional perceptions of attraction and repulsion.

Thus this year's line up seems sure to attract Mozart fans of all ages. Tickets (from R140 to R280) will be available from Computicket, with special prices for senior citizens and students on selected concerts. For more information and the full programme visit [www.join-mozart-festival.org](http://www.join-mozart-festival.org). **CF**