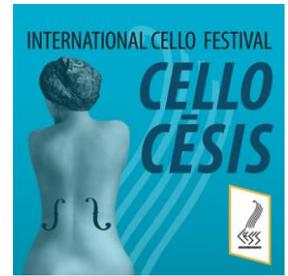


5 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL CELLO CĒSIS
13.–15. September



Friday, 13. September, 19:00

EPOCH

Ashley Bathgate, cello, electronics/USA
Reinis Zarins, piano

The Cello Cesis opening concert will introduce our audience to contemporary cello music performed by American cellist Ashley Bathgate, participant of the internationally acclaimed sextet Bang on a Can All-Stars, and one of the greatest Latvian pianists Reinis Zarins, famous with his interpretations and who's passion lies in the creation of programmes that explore the deeper reasons and purposes behind music.

Ashley Bathgate has been described as an “eloquent new music interpreter” (*New York Times*) and “a glorious cellist” (*The Washington Post*) who combines “bittersweet lyricism along with ferocious chops” (*New York Magazine*). Her “impish ferocity”, “rich tone” and “imaginative phrasing” (*New York Times*) have made her one of the most sought after performers of her time. The desire to create a dynamic energy exchange with her audience and build upon the ensuing chemistry is a pillar of Bathgate's philosophy as a performer. Her affinity to dynamism drives Bathgate to venture into previously uncharted areas of ground-breaking sounds and techniques, breaking the mold of a cello's traditionally perceived voice. Collaborators and fans alike describe her vitality as nothing short of remarkable and magical for all who are involved.

As the cellist of of the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Bathgate is the main vessel for numerous cello works by the Boac composers Julia Wolfe, David Lang, and Michael Gordon.

Presently resident in London, Latvian pianists **Reinis Zarins** regularly performs in his native country and has won the country's Grand Music Award three times in the category “Outstanding interpretation”. He also champions the work of Latvian composers: the 2017/18 season sees the release of his third Latvian album, as well as premieres of a new piano concerto and a cycle of piano works written for Zarins by the leading composers of Latvia. Other highlights include being elected the artist-in-residence both for Latvia's Radio 3 and in concert hall Cēsis with his Trio Palladio.

Laureate of 11 international competitions, Zarins has performed in prestigious music festivals, including Lucerne Festival, Bath International Music festival and Scotia Festival of Music. His thoughtful virtuosity has gathered audiences in Wigmore hall in London, Amsterdam

Concertgebouw, New York's Weill Recital hall in Carnegie hall, and Tchaikovsky Concert hall in Moscow. Zarins has collaborated with leading orchestras, like Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Kremerata Baltica, Ostrobothnian Chamber orchestra, and conductors Pierre Boulez, Peter Eötvös, Pablo Heras-Casado and Diego Masson, among others.

After his foundational studies in Latvia, Zarins won several scholarships to refine his talent at Yale School of Music (USA) and the Royal Academy of Music in London. His most important teachers are Boris Berman, Raffi Kharajanyan, Christopher Elton and Renē Salaks.

Saturday, 14. September, 11:00 – 13:00

BRANCH WITH CELLO FLAVOUR

Roof top café at Cēsis Concert Hall

Saturday, 14. September, 10:00 – 16:00

MASTERCLASSES

Saturday, 14. September, 14:00

CELLO RITMICO

Eriks Kirsfelds, cello

Percussion instrument ensemble "Perpetuum Ritmico"

Every edition, the Cello Cēsis programme features a concert that surprises the audience with unusual instrumentation. Recent festivals have featured programmes for cello and saxophone quartet or cello and vibraphone. This year we will hear a cello with various percussion instruments, performed by the brilliant Latvian musician, long-standing solo cellist for the Kremerata Baltica Chamber orchestra Eriks Kirsfelds and the percussion instrument ensemble Perpetuum Ritmico.

Eriks Kirsfelds is one of Latvia's leading soloists and chamber musicians, a concertmaster of the cello group of the Liepaja Symphony Orchestra, and has been a longtime concertmaster of the Kremerata Baltica Chamber orchestra cello group. Regularly plays with Sinfonietta Amsterdam. Kirsfelds has won the Latvian Grand Music Award 2009 for outstanding work in the ensemble.

He is actively performing both as a soloist and in various chamber ensembles. Has made many tunes for Latvian Radio. A member of the Spikeri string quartet. Under the wing of the record house Wergo, the Spīķeri Quartet has recorded all string quartets by the most famous Latvian composer Peteris Vasks.

Perpetuum Ritmico is the first and only percussion instrument ensemble in Latvia that has been a permanent unit for a long time. In their performances, they combine diverse musical trends from folklore to avant-garde, from classical music intonation to contemporary popular culture styles, using a wide range of percussion instruments in performances. In 2016, Perpetuum Ritmico was nominated for the Grand Music Award in the category "The Concert of The Year". The ensemble consists of Latvian percussion virtuosos Guntars Freibergs, Elina Endzele, Mikus Balins and Ernests Medins.

Saturday, 14. September, 17:00

ART EXHIBITION OPENING | LATVIAN PAINTER DAIGA KRUZE

Saturday, 14. September, 18:00

FILM "CELLO" (2017)

With American cellists Lynn Harrell in the leading role

A short film about one man's battle with ALS, and the choices we all hope we never have to make.

"Cello" epitomizes the emotional link a classical music performer has with their chosen profession -- and what happens when they can no longer play. The story asks the universal question -- what to do about prolonged suffering and how to contend with loved ones whose grief parallels the highly personal decision to end one's life on one's own terms. CELLO is a film for anyone coming to grips with life and death decisions. It looks at layers of a life well-lived, and the choices an individual faces without judgment. The music centered film features beloved world renowned Lynn Harrell who plays the master cellist. Vocalist Lara Fabian (known around the world) sings the poignant end title song, "Remember Me, written by award-winning composer Randy Kerber and Glen Ballard.

Saturday, 14. September, 19:00

GALA CONCERT

Margarita Balanas, cello
Kristine Balanas, violin
Danjulo Ishizaka, cello/Germany
Lithuania National symphony orchestra
Conductor Robertas Šerėnikas

In the Cello Cēsis Gala concert we will witness the performance of Philipp Glass Double Concerto for violin and cello by two talented sisters – one of the most famous, internationally acclaimed Latvian cellists Margarita Balanas and her sister – virtuous violinist Kristine Balanas. The special guest of the concert will be Danjulo Ishizaka, German-Japanese cellist, ranked among the most outstanding cellists of his generation internationally.

Margarita Balanas is one of the most exciting and versatile artists of her generation. Known for her distinguished artistry and mesmerizing stage presence, she has performed to audiences world-wide being hailed as “powerful, delicate, intense and brilliant” (*GLAM Adelaide*).

Margarita made her solo debut at Wigmore Hall at age 17 and has since has performed in venues such as Foundation Louis Vuitton, Royal Festival Hall, Casa da Musica and Le Corum, and has appeared in festivals such as Piatigorsky International Cello Festival in Los Angeles, the Adelaide International Cello Festival in Australia, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival in Germany, International Musicians Seminar Prussia Cove, French Chamber Music Festival, Roman River Music Festival, Minoa Palace Chamber Music Festival, and Aurora Chamber Music Festival and the Brighton Festival.

Margarita Balanas regularly performs with her sister, violinist Kristine Balanas, and together they have performed across the globe, dazzling audiences with their virtuosic splendor.

Described by “The Times” as a musician of ‘eye-popping virtuosity’, Margaritas’ sister, Latvian violinist **Kristīne Balanas** is one of the fastest rising talents on the international scene and was recently recognized as Young Artist of the Year in the prestigious Grand Music Awards of her home country and received the Fundacion Excelentia Young Talent Award from Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain. She is a laureate of the vaunted 66th International ARD Music Competition, where she received the 3rd prize.

Danjulo Ishizaka has worked in close collaboration with Rostropovich. The cello legend held Danjulo in high regard and described Danjulo’s performance with these words: “phenomenal in his technical ability, perfect in his musical creative power”.

Danjulo was chosen to participate in BBC Radio 3's renowned "New Generation Artists Scheme," offering him the opportunity to produce numerous studio recordings in 2007 and 2008 – solo, accompanied by piano and by the five BBC Symphony Orchestras – as well as holding debut recitals at Wigmore Hall London.

His international concert schedule regularly takes him throughout Europe, Asia and the US. He has been performing around the world with artists including Gidon Kremer, Lisa Batiashvili, Tabea Zimmermann, Julia Fischer, Veronika Eberle, Ray Chen, Martin Helmchen, Nils Mönkemeyer and Viviane Hagner and with leading orchestras such as the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Opera National de Paris, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields and the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, to mention a few

Sunday, 15. September, 13:00

CELLO IN THE ART GALLERY

Music and talks with the exhibition artist

Ramon Jeffe, cello/Germany
Aina Kalnciema, harpsichord

Born in a family of musicians in Riga, Latvia, Ramon Jeffe first moved to Israel, and then moved to Germany. First Music Skills Ramon got from his father, Don Jaffé. In parallel to his studies with Davidas Geringas and B. Pergamenschikov, his musical ideals were D. Schafran and S. Végh. In particular, Ramon Jaffe, as a chamber music partner, was alongside Sandor Vga for his last performance at the Great Mozarteum in Salzburg.

At an early age, Ramon Jaffe was successful in many competitions, such as the German Music Competition (1984) and the Casals Competition in Budapest (1985). During his studies he already started the solo carrier in the biggest concert halls in Berlin, Amsterdam, Salzburg, Leipzig, Vienna, Munich, London, Hamburg and Cologne. In parallel, he also devoted himself to chamber music, being a cellists in string trio "Belcanto-Strings" and "Mendelssohn Trio Berlin" (formerly Salzburg Piano Trio).

Ramon Jeffe is the founder and artistic director of the Hopfgarten / Tirol Chamber Music Festival.

Sunday, 15. September, 15:00

CONCERT PRODUCTION FOR CHILDREN