

9th BERENGARIA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

May 2nd to 5th, 2011

Rialto Theatre Limassol

About

The Berengaria International Music Festival is dedicated to the presentation of both chamber and solo music performed by high calibre musicians from all over the world. Since its creation in 2003 internationally acclaimed artists from Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Israel, Latvia, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland and Taiwan have been guests of the festival.

Its 9th edition will take place between May 2nd and 5th, 2011, at the Rialto Theatre in Limassol, and is organized by the Rialto Theatre and the Municipality of Kato Polemidia in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture.

In 2011, the bicentenary of **Franz Liszt's** birth is a celebrated event in the classical musical world all over Europe. At the same time, Argentina commemorates **Ástor Piazzolla**: the "genius behind the New Tango" would have been 90 years old this year. But 2011 also marks the 40th anniversary of **Igor Stravinsky's** death, unquestionably one of the most significant composers of the 20th century.

As a tribute to these special jubilees, the Berengaria Festival is going to present two concerts (on May 2nd and May 5th, 20.30h) with several works by these composers in combination with other classical pieces from the 19th and 20th century as well as a documentary film about a dance performance with school students from deprived backgrounds based around the music of Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.



One of the aims of the festival is to introduce new audiences, especially young people, to the classical music. Therefore, the festival dedicates every year a very special and versatile programme of education and performances for the young public.

This year's events will take place on Tuesday May 3rd:

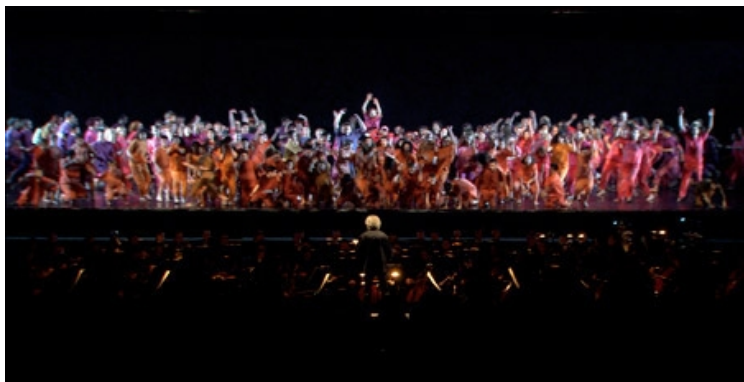
- *11.00h Morning concert with the Strings Workshop*

Concert with young violinists of the "Strings Workshop" under the direction of Matheos Kariolou. It is a concert for children performed by children and organized in collaboration with the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture.

- *20.30h Film screening*

"Rhythm is it!" (2004)

This film documents one of the most elaborate and ambitious education projects of the Berlin Philharmonic: Igor Stravinsky's "Le Sacre du Printemps" (The Rite of Spring), a dance spectacle bringing together 250 Berlin children and young people from 25 nations and very different social backgrounds, who up until this point have had no contact with either classical music or one another.



It is the intent of the festival to create an atmosphere that fosters earnest interaction between performers, audience, and the music itself, appreciated equally by those new to classical music and by connoisseurs who value the intimacy and intensity of the musical experience.

Music is essential to the aesthetic, intellectual and spiritual development of individuals and their community, and should be made available to people of diverse ages, abilities and means.

We would like to thank all artists, the Municipality of Kato Polemidia and the Rialto team for the support from the very beginning, and all people that have, in various ways, contributed to the realization of this year's event.

Let this musical encounter be an unique and unforgettable experience for all of us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Benda".

Denise Benda

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matheos Kariolou".

Matheos Kariolou

Artistic Directors

May 2nd, 2011, 20.30h, Rialto Theatre Limassol

Concert

"Tradition and Modernity I"

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) Sonata for viola and piano in E flat major op. 120/2

Robert Schumann (1810- 1856) Four Fantasy Pieces for piano solo op.12

Ástor Piazzolla (1921-1992) Le Grand Tango for viola and accordion

H. Holliger (1939*) "Trema" for violoncello solo

C. Debussy (1862-1915) Sonata for violoncello and piano

Denise Benda, piano

Christian Euler, viola

Janne Rättyä, accordion

Daniel Haefliger, violoncello

May 3rd, 2011, 11.00h, Rialto Theatre Limassol

Morning Concert

with the Strings Workshop

Direction: Matheos Kariolou



May 3rd, 2011, 20.30h, Rialto Theatre Limassol

Film Screening

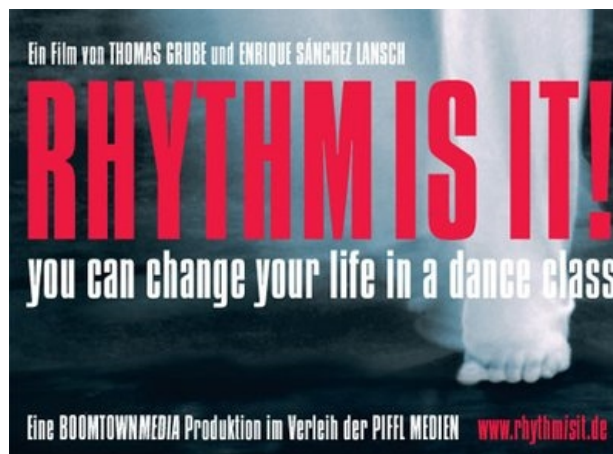
**"Rhythm is it!"
(2004)**



Rarely has a documentary about classical music met with such a response or received so many awards as the film *Rhythm Is It!* which has been shown in cinemas all round the world. The German weekly publication *Die Zeit* went so far as to demand that "*Rhythm Is It!* be compulsory in all schools". This film is not only about great music from the past, but about things that concern all of us: How do young people develop their talents? How can creativity change all of our lives? There are also stunning dance scenes and fantastic music played by the Berliner Philharmonic, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle.

It was in January 2003 when 250 Berlin school children came together for this unique project. Accompanied by such world-class musicians as those from the Berlin Philharmonic and trained by choreographer Royston Maldoom, these young people from 25 different national backgrounds danced Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du printemps*, one of the most famous ballets of the 20th century.

Rhythm Is It! follows three of the young dancers during the three-month rehearsal period. In this time they experience highs and lows, insecurity, self-confidence, doubt and enthusiasm: an emotional journey into new undreamed of worlds, discovering sides to themselves they never knew existed. Directors Thomas Grube and Enrique Sánchez Lansch skillfully interweave the workshops with the rehearsals of the Berliner Philharmonic. *Rhythm Is It!* offers a unique insight into the educational work of the orchestra which has set standards on a global scale.



May 5th, 2011, 20.30h, Rialto Theatre Limassol

Concert

"Tradition and Modernity II"

Robert Schumann (1810- 1856) Adagio and Allegro op. 70 for viola and piano

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) Four Transcendental Etudes for piano solo

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) Three Movements from Petrouchka (arr. piano/ accordion)

Igor Stravinsky Tango (arr. piano/bandonéon)

Ástor Piazzolla (1921-1992) Tangos (arr. piano/bandonéon)

Henri Sigfridsson, piano

Christian Euler, viola

Janne Rättyä, accordion & bandonéon

Denise Benda, piano

Denise Benda was born into a family of a long musical tradition.

She first studied with her father, the pianist Sebastian Benda and then with Paul Badura-Skoda at the Vienna Music University, with Rudolf Buchbinder at the Basle Academy and with Murray Perahia at the “Britten-Pears School“ in Aldeburgh/ England.



She has performed throughout the world as a recitalist, orchestral soloist and chamber musician and has cooperated with distinguished musicians such as Josef Suk, Evgenia Tchugajeva and Isabelle Faust among others.

Denise Benda has given concerts in 20 countries playing in many important musical centres such as Vienna, Salzburg, Prague, London, Manchester, Budapest, Rome, Geneva, Brussels, Frankfurt, Lyon, Moscow, Osaka.

Frequently invited at important international festivals (Festival International de Piano de La Roque d'Anthéron, Dubrovnik Summer Festival, Orford Music Festival of Canada, Semaine Int. de Piano Blonay) led her to the creation of the “International Berengaria Music Festival” in Cyprus, being its artistic director since 2003.

Her recording activity for radio and TV broadcasting companies worldwide as well as CD's for FONON (Germany) and BMC (Holland) complete her artistic profile.

She is often invited to give master-classes for both piano and piano chamber music in Austria, Taiwan, Switzerland, Croatia and Brazil, as music pedagogy is an essential part of her artistic vision.

Denise Benda teaches at the Konservatorium Wien/ City of Vienna University (Austria).



Christian Euler, viola

Christian Euler, born in Kassel/ Germany, obtained his master's degree at the Julliard School of New York. Among his teachers were Margaret Pardee, Walter Trampler and Emmanuel Vardi.

After a year with the New York Philharmonic, he was appointed associate principal violist with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Ricardo Muti, from year 1984-1991.

Besides solo appearances in Germany, Italy, Canada and the United States he has been an active chamber music player with partners such as Franco Gulli, Bruno Giuranna, Natalia Gutman, Radu Lupu and Ulf Hoelscher, and was also a member of the Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble.

Since 1991 he has been professor for viola and chamber music at the Graz University of Music and Performing Arts, and has given master classes in Canada, Spain, Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland, Cyprus, Germany and Croatia.

Janne Rättyä, accordion & bandonéon

The Finnish accordionist Janne Rättyä studied at the Sibelius-Academy in Helsinki and at the Folkwang Hochschule Essen. He was awarded numerous prizes in various national and international classical accordion and soloist competitions, most notably the first prize at the Arrasate Hiria competition in Spain in 1996.

In 2002, Rättyä made his début in the Chamber Hall of the Berlin Philharmonic (with the Debut Series of Deutschland Radio Berlin), performing the first classical accordion recital ever presented there. He performs as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, in the U.S., and since his 1999 Japanese début in Voris Hall, Tokyo, regularly tours Japan.

Rättyä has introduced his instrument to Venues like Savonlinna Opera Festival, Van Vlaanderen Festival, Felix Meritis Konzertzaal (Amsterdam), NY Symphony Space, Pacific Rim Music Festival, Kyoto International Music Festival, Toppan Hall (Tokyo), Wien Modern, Mouvement Musik of 21st Century (SRF), Musica Scienza (Roma), Steierischer Herbst Festival and Salzburger Aspekte among others.

Rättyä appears among others under the German CD label VMS and the Japanese Octavia Records label. Rättyä collaborates closely with contemporary composers Aldo Clementi, Dieter Schnebel, Gerhard Stäbler, Uljas Pulkkis, and Iris ter Schiphorst, among others, to create new music for his young instrument.

Rättyä taught classical accordion at the Folkwang Hochschule Essen in Germany and at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, from 2000 to 2002. He has been professor for Classical Accordion Studies at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Graz, Austria, since 2003.



Daniel Haefliger, violoncello

Daniel Haefliger has studied with many renowned cellists, including Pierre Fournier and André Navarra.

The versatile musician performs regularly as soloist and chamber musician in major musical centres like Lucerne, Paris, Berlin, Tokyo, Newcastle or Sydney with partners such as Heinz Holliger, Dénes Varion or Patricia Kopatchinskaja and with conductors such as Thierry Fischer, Pascal Rophé, Peter Eötvös and Magnus Lindberg .

Daniel Haefliger is committed to the music of our time and creates many contemporary pieces in close collaboration with most of the important composers of today like György Kurtag, Brian Ferneyhough, Franco Donatoni, György Ligeti.

Aside from his engagements as a solo cellist in groups such as the Ensemble Modern of Frankfurt or the Camerata Bern, he is also very involved in chamber music and regularly invited to numerous international festivals in Europe, South America and Australia.

His CD production (Forlane, Stradivarius, Claves, Neos, ECM and other labels) encompasses principally chamber music, with the collaboration of the Ensemble Contrechamps of Geneva, Heinz Holliger and more. Aside from his concert activities, Daniel Haefliger was, in 1983, the founding member of the musicology magazine Contrechamps. He is also founder and artistic director of the Swiss Chamber Concerts, unique Swiss series created in 1999 with regular concerts in Basel, Zurich, Geneva and Lugano.

Daniel Haefliger teaches violoncello and chamber music at the Music University of Lausanne and Geneva. He plays a violoncello by Giovanni Milanese Grancino from 1695.

The Strings Workshop

2006 by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus. It represents the initial stage of a more comprehensive project for the development of young musical talents in Cyprus. This pioneering and ambitious initiative within the general sphere of cultural development provides opportunities for talented young Cypriot children to become involved with music and receive instruction on their instrument at the highest possible level.



The Violin Workshop is the first section of the project operating at this moment. Thirty-five children, aged between 4-14 years, participate in the workshop, who were selected at different periods of time during the four years of the Workshop's operation. Since the Workshop's establishment hundreds of parents have expressed great interest in their children's participation. The Strings Workshop was established in October

The long-term objective of the Workshop is to locate children from all over Cyprus, aged 3-10 years, with a special talent in music and interest in learning an orchestral string instrument. Thus, through the application of suitable methods of instruction, guidance and supervision, a small children's string orchestra will be created in the near future, which is expected to develop, within the next 10 years, into an orchestra equal to other similar internationally renowned and esteemed ensembles.

The Workshop operates under the supervision and guidance of the distinguished virtuoso violinist and music pedagogue Matheos Kariolou, who visits Cyprus regularly and works intensively with the children. Professor Kariolou, who lives and works in Austria, at Anton Bruckner Music University in Linz, has great experience in teaching the violin to both children of a very young age and older students, applying his own personal method of teaching. Professor Kariolou's assistants who teach children systematically are: Menelaos Menelaou, Robert Hohvannesyanyan, Costas Demirtzoglou, Melina Harrer-Kanthou, Sorin Alexandru Horlea and Varvara Merzlova Peneva.

The Workshop's performances have spread much enthusiasm in audience for their generally accepted high quality. In the framework of the Workshop's operation, a group of highly talented children has been selected to form the ensemble "*Cyprus Young Strings Soloists*". This ensemble has already performed with great success at various events and concerts.

In June 2010 "*Cyprus Young Strings Soloists*" were given the unique opportunity, invited by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Demetris Christofias, to perform in honour of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of his Apostolic Journey to Cyprus. His Holiness expressed his great enthusiasm both for the project and for the children's quality of performance.

In October 2010 the ensemble performed at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels at a concert for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Cyprus. The young performers received a prolonged standing ovation from a most enthusiastic audience. The concert was held under the auspices of the President of the European Parliament, Dr Jerzy Buzek.

In November 2010 the ensemble performed at the famous "Musikverein" concert hall in Vienna. This concert was included in the framework of the formal celebrations for the 50th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Cyprus and was held under the auspices of His Excellency the Federal President of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer, and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Demetris Christofias. Particularly the performance in Vienna has been characterized as "a performance to be remembered".



Matheos Kariolou, violin

Matheos Kariolou was born in Kyrenia, and studied at the Vienna Music University (with Ricardo Odnoposoff) for eight years. Due to his special talent and excellent performance he received a scholarship from the Austrian Ministry of Culture and Science.

From 1973-1980, he continued his music studies under the tutelage of Evgenia Tschugajewa and Leonid Kogan at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow and graduated with distinction.

With the support and cooperation of exceptional musicians such as Lord Yehudi Menuhin and Sir Michael Tippett, he has given numerous concerts worldwide. He has been praised for the personal character and sincerity of his performances.

Kariolou is one of very few artists who has performed live all 24 of Paganini's caprices and he has given the Greek première of Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No.1.

In 1985, while Athens was the European Cultural Capital, he was invited by the Greek Minister of Education Melina Merkouri to represent Cyprus at a concert in the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus, which was attended by an audience of 20.000 people.

From 1980-1990, he was violin professor at the Music University in Graz, Austria, whilst since 1990 he has been teaching at the Anton Bruckner Music University, in Linz.

His outstanding abilities as a teacher have been recognized and his pupils have received distinctions at various music competitions. Kariolou has been invited to give international seminars and master classes all over the world. He is also a jury member of various music competitions and has participated in many music festivals worldwide.

In 2003 he founded the International Music Festival "Berengaria" in Limassol, holding the position of artistic director to the present date.



Henri Sigfridsson, piano

Henri Sigfridsson, born in Turku (1974), winner of the Second Prize of the Zurich Geza Anda Piano competition 2000, not only impressed the Jury under the chairmanship of Vladimir Ashkenazy, he won the hearts of many members of the public who attended the final concert in the Zurich Tonhalle, and he walked off with the Geza Anda Audience Prize. In 2005 he won the First Prize at the Beethoven International Piano Competition in Bonn, where he got the Audience Prize and Chamber Music Prize as well.

Besides of the Geza Anda Competition Henri Sigfridsson was awarded the renowned ABOA Culture Prize in Finland, first prizes at the 1994 International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Weimar and at the 1995 "Nordic Soloist Competition".

As a soloist Sigfridsson has played with the leading Finnish orchestras and numerous orchestras in Europe, including the MDR Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Weimar, the Orchestre National de Lille, the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, the St. Petersburg Philharmonics, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Konzerthaus Orchestra, the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, the Munich Symphony Orchestra, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, the Camerata Salzburg under the baton of prestigious conductors such as Georg Alexander Albrecht, Vladimir Askenazy, Neville Marriner, Alexander Lazarev, Beat Furrer, Dennis Russel Davies, Lawrence Foster, Howard Shelley, Volker Schmidt-Gertenbach, Jun-Ichi Hirokami, Dorian Wilson, Sakari Oramo, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Osmo Vänskä, Okko Kamu and Leif Segerstam.

He has made notable débuts in the Vienna Musikverein, Vienna Concert Hall, Berlin Philharmonie, Cologne and Munich Philharmonie, Berlin Konzerthaus, Stockholm Concert Hall, Zurich Tonhalle, major halls in Italy and Austria, Ruhr Piano Festival, Wigmore Hall London, etc. Since 2000 Henri Sigfridsson is regularly invited to Asia and has performed in major halls in Japan, China and Korea. Sigfridsson performs at very prestigious festivals like the Augsburg Mozart Week, the St. Petersburg Musical Olympus Festival, the Krakow Piano Festival, the Heidelberg Festival, the Kissinger Sommer Festival, the Interlaken Festival, the Lucerne Festival, the Davos Festival, the Styriarte Festival, the Lockenhaus and the Salzburg Festival.

Henri Sigfridsson feels a very deep commitment to chamber music. He appeared with Leonidas Kavakos, Gidon Kremer, Ivry Gitlis, Mischa Maisky, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Sol Gabetta, Johannes Moser to name a few.

Sigfridsson has a number of recordings including the Piano Concertos of F.X.Mozart. And for the memorable year of Sibelius, released Sibelius Piano Transcriptions. In addition the Piano Concertos no. 2 and no. 3 of Rachmaninov have been released. Sigfridsson has a contract with the Finnish CD label Ondine. Until now the 55-minute brilliant piano concerto by the Finnisch composer Kimmo Hakola has been released. A CD with the piano transcriptions of Jean Sibelius` symphonies 2 and 5 and three more CDs with the music of Selim Palmgren (including piano concertos) are to be released next year.

Sigfridsson began studying with Sävy Nordgren at the Turku Conservatory and later at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki (Prof. Erik T. Tawaststjerna). He completed his studies at the Cologne Music University with the highest distinction (Prof. Pavel Gililov). 1995-97 he studied at the Franz Liszt Music University in Weimar (Prof. Lazar Berman) as well.

Since 2010 he is a guest professor at the Music University Hanns Eisler in Berlin and from 2011 in Essen at the Folkwang University as a holder of one of the highest chairs for piano in Germany.

International Music Festival Berengaria

Artistic Directors: Denise Benda, Matheos Kariolou

www.festivalberengaria.com

Entrance for the Evening Concerts: € 5-10

Free Entrance for all events on May 3rd (youth programme)!

Rialto Theatre Limassol

BOX OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

10:00-14:00

16:30-18:30

Saturday

10:00-13:00

www.rialto.com.cy

Tel:++357-25343900

Fax: ++ 357-25749663

rialto@cytanet.com.cy

P.O.BOX 50332,
Andrea Drousioti 19
Platia Iroon
3603 Limassol
Cyprus

T.Θ. 50332
Ανδρέα Δρουσιώτη 19
Πλατεία Ηρώων
3603 Λεμεσός
Κύπρος