

# Elias Parish Alvars Festival

22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2010  
Teignmouth/Devon

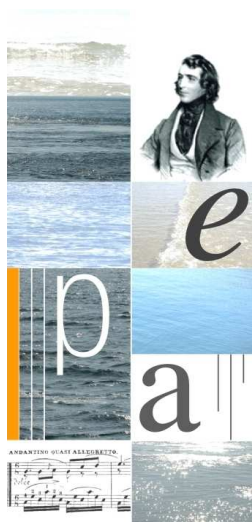
## Celebration of the Virtuoso Composers

Jana Boušková, Florence Sitruk, Olga Polonsky,  
Agne Keblyte, Jaap Kruithof, Christoph  
Bunzendahl, Peter François





## Welcome



We would like to welcome you to the third edition of the Elias Parish Alvars Festival!

As they say, all good things come in threes, but of course we hope to be here for many more years and watch our joint efforts grow. This year's theme is the fire of virtuosity - a topic frequently associated with the music of the 19th century. The brilliance within the music evokes admiration and awe through its speed, agility and explosive qualities. In addition to this satisfaction of the senses it offers a reflection of 19th century life by showing the emancipation of the individual within society.

Most of the pieces performed throughout the festival have been written with only one instrument in mind - demonstrating the move from within a symphonic group to becoming a liberated individual voice.

Elias Parish Alvars was the master of this process for his instrument. There is no one who ever wrote more virtuosic music for the harp than he did- till this day nobody has managed to come close to Teignmouth's own son. Enjoy the fireworks!

I would also like to give you a glimpse behind the scenes of the organization of a festival: there is not only work for finding sponsorship and happy calls when we receive a confirmation, there are the hundreds of emails between the team - Christoph in Belgium and Bernard in Switzerland - while "normal life" continues, flights changed because some participants think Teignmouth is a big town easy to reach even late night, the letters written for young students to free them from school, the music sent around the globe, biographies translated from Lithuanian into English, and a harp box sent from Brittany to Alex at the Bay hotel, arriving like a big giraffe. All these details - and a thousand more - make this festival come together, without the help of many wonderful friends, in and outside of Teignmouth, this could never happen. This year's festival assembles no less than seven nationalities from the US, Belgium, Russia, Lithuania, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands - and certainly even more in the audience.

Thank you to all of you! Sir Elias truly has come home to Teignmouth!

With my warm wishes

*Florence Sitruk*

Florence for the team

## Concerts

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 8:00 pm, St James Church

**Florence Sitruk, Harp**

**Olga Polonsky, Violin**

**Agne Keblyte, Harp**

**Jaap Kruithof, Cello**

**Christoph Buzendahl, Cello**

*Works by Paganini, Parish Alvars, Popper*

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, 8:00 pm, St James Church

**Jana Boušková (Prague), Harp**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 10:30 am, Methodist Church

**Student Recital**

### Other events

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, 1:00 pm, Bitton House

*'François Servais (1807-1866): A Touring Cellist  
in the Golden Age of Virtuosity'*

Lecture by **Peter François**, President of the Servais Society

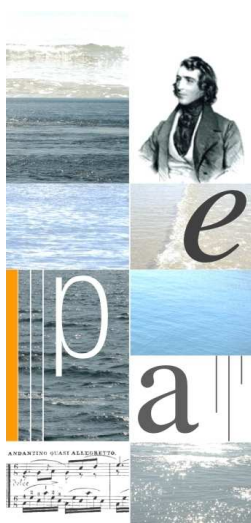
Daily **masterclasses** at the Bay Hotel, Red Salon

Attendance is free of charge

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of April, 11am-1pm and 3pm-5pm (Prof. Florence Sitruk, HEM Geneva/CH)

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of April: 10-1pm (Prof. Florence Sitruk)

Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of April: 10am-2pm (subject to change: Prof. Jana Bouskova, Royal Conservatory Brussels)



**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April**

8:00 pm, St-James Church

**Florence Sitruk, Harp**  
**Olga Polonsky, Violin**  
**Agne Keblyte, Harp**  
**Jaap Kruithof, Cello**  
**Christoph Bunzendahl, Cello**

Nicolas Bochsa/Louis Duport  
(1789-1856)/(1749-1819)

*Christoph Bunzendahl, Florence Sitruk*

Grand Duo pour violoncelle et harpe,  
op. 70

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

*Olga Polonsky, Jaap Kruithof,  
Florence Sitruk*

From Piano Trio in g minor, op. 8  
*Adagio Sostenuto*

Félix Dieudonné Godefroid  
(1818-1897)

*Florence Sitruk*

"Danse des Sylphes. Rondo brillant"  
for harp

Nicolas Bochsa/Henri Herz  
(1789-1856)/(1789/1857)

*Agne Keblyte, Florence Sitruk*

Fantaisie pour piano (harpe) et harpe  
*Andante maestoso - Allegretto con  
variazion - Allegro assai*  
dedicated to Louise Rothschild

Intermission

Niccoló Paganini  
(1782-1840)

Carl Czerny/Théodore Lafont  
(1791-1857)

*Olga Polonsky, Florence Sitruk*

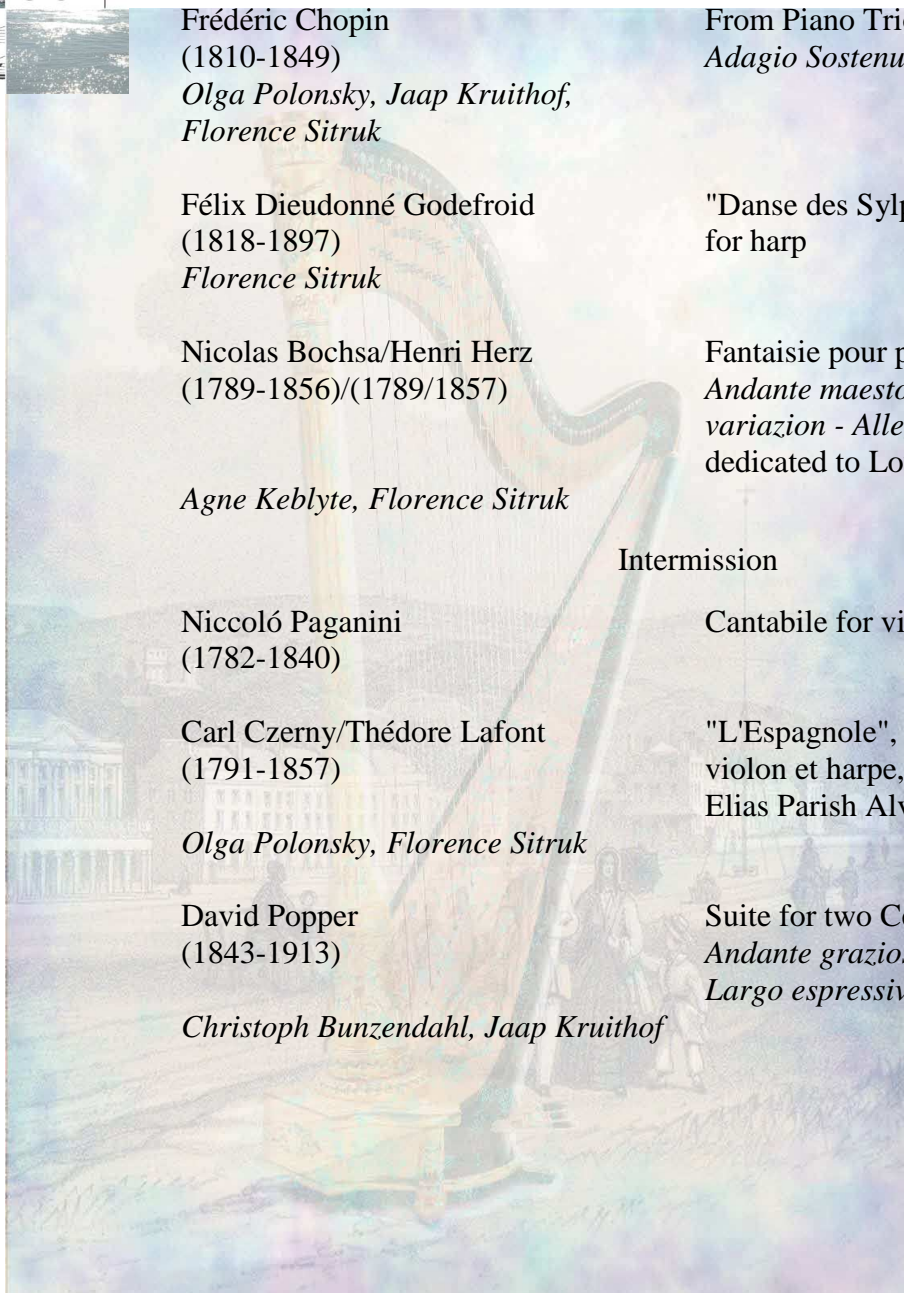
David Popper  
(1843-1913)

*Christoph Bunzendahl, Jaap Kruithof*

Cantabile for violin and guitar (harp)

"L'Espagnole", Romance variée pour  
violon et harpe, op. 305 (arranged by  
Elias Parish Alvars)

Suite for two Cellos, op. 16  
*Andante grazioso - Gavotte - Scherzo -  
Largo espressivo - Marcia - Finale*



## Florence Sitruk

### Harp



"One of the finest artists in her field", according to late pianist György Sebök, Franco-German Florence Sitruk has done pioneering work to the harp as a soloist, a teacher and festival director.

On the return from the last Cornwall masterclass with her late teacher György Sebök in 1999, Florence Sitruk discovered Teignmouth and since then made Teignmouth born Elias Parish Alvars (1808-1849) famous in his home town again with an annually held festival.

Born in 1974, she studied at Paris Conservatory, and gained the Artist Diploma from Indiana University/USA with Susann McDonald and legendary pianist György Sebök whom she calls both decisive for her musical development. In addition, she holds degrees in musicology and philosophy from Freiburg University, and studied historical performance practice with Robert Hill, harpsichordist.

Since her debut at the age of 15 with the Camerata Academica Salzburg under Sandor Végh, she concertizes regularly as a soloist with orchestras such as the Lucerne Festival Strings, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, the Dresden Philharmonic, the Freiburg Baroque Soloists, the Lithuanian Philharmonic and Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, the Neusser Kammerakademie, the Festival Orquestra da Paz/Brazil, the Stuttgart Radio Orchestra or the Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin with which she gave her live broadcasted debut at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall.

Solo recitals and chamber music have taken her to the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Rudolfinum Prague, Opéra Bastille Paris, the Tower 101 Taipei or the Teatro da Paz/Belem, the Musikhalle Hamburg, to name a few; as well as in the season 2010 to the Glinka Hall/St. Petersburg, to Hongkong, Shanghai, the Muséiques Festival Basel/CH on invitation of Gidon Kremer, to Hobart/Tasmania, to the Niedersächsische Musiktage, with partners such as Hartmut Rohde, viola, Rachel Hamisch, soprano, the Ciurlionis String Quartet, Nicolas Altstaedt, Cello, etc. In June 2009, she was invited to conduct the Konzerthausorchester Berlin for the first time and has been taking conducting lessons with Jorma Panula.

Florence Sitruk won more than seven national and international prizes (Paris, Brussels, Indiana University), among which the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Rome International Competition Valentino Bucchi for Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the prestigious "Debüt at the DeutschlandRadio" at the Berlin Philharmonic as first German harpist ever. She was also the first harpist to be nominated for the Eurovision Contest of Classical Music in Brussels by the European Broadcasting Union. It is especially the music of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century which is strongly supported in her repertoire and to which she is a dedicated and intelligent advocate through exquisite programming.

At the same time she is at the head of the revival of virtuoso Elias Parish Alvars (1808-1849), the so-called Liszt of the harp, and has performed his concertos, often as national premieres, throughout the world.

Florence Sitruk is professor of harp at the Haute Ecole de Musique of Geneva, and since her appointment in 2005 the youngest professor in her field. It is a position she also holds at the Lithuanian Music Academy Vilnius/Lithuania since the age of 26. Her talent class set up one third of the international young top players at the X<sup>th</sup> World Harp Congress 2008 in Amsterdam.

## Olga Polonsky

### Violin



Violinist Olga Polonsky performs extensively as soloist, duo recitalist, chamber musician and orchestra leader. She has appeared as soloist with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Columbus (OH) Symphony Orchestra, Indian Hill Symphony (MA), Boston Philharmonic, Indiana University and Chamber Orchestras, Interlochen Arts Camp and Academy Orchestras, and the Boston Chamber Orchestra. Chamber music performances have taken her to Marlboro, Kuhmo, Sarasota, Prussia Cove, and Kronberg Academy festivals where she played alongside such distinguished musicians as David Soyer, Gidon Kremer, Lang Lang, Mitsuko Uchida, Yuri Bashmet, and Kim Kashkashian, among others.

She has appeared in Carnegie Hall and Bargemusic in N.Y., and in Boston's Jordan Hall. In December 2005, Ms. Polonsky was appointed to the position of associate concertmaster in the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin. This season she was one of the soloists with her orchestra in Vivaldi's and Piazzolla's "Four Seasons". In addition, she tours regularly throughout Europe and Asia with the Verbier Festival Orchestra under the direction of James Levine and other eminent conductors. She is a member of the Verbier Chamber Orchestra, a group which in collaboration with Maxim Vengerov released a critically acclaimed disc of Mozart's violin works for EMI. Notable past orchestral credits include serving as guest principal second violin of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and as part-time member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Born in Moscow into a family of musicians, Olga Polonsky pursued her violin studies at the Central Music School of Music affiliated with the Moscow Conservatory. At ten, she performed the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra. After emigrating to the United States, she continued her studies with David and Linda Cerone at the Cleveland Institute of Music. She completed her Bachelor of Music Degree at Indiana University, where she studied with the renowned Russian violinist Nelli Shkolnikova, and received her Master's Degree from the Longy School of Music, where she studied with Joseph Silverstein.

## Agne Keblyte

### Harp



Agnė Keblytė was born in 1990 in Vilnius/Lithuania into a family of artists. Her musical career started at an early age by being accepted to the Conservatory for Highly Talented Students M.K.Čiurlionis in the categories harp and piano. In 2000 she began her harp studies with Daiva Šlyžienė, while also attending masterclasses by Prof. Florence Sitruk at the Academy for Music and Theater in Vilnius and Geneva. Following her graduation in Vilnius in 2009, she became a student of Prof. Florence Sitruk at the Conservatory in Geneva. She has enrolled in masterclasses with Susann McDonald/USA (2003), Milda Agazarian/Moscow, Skaila Kanga/GB, Irina Donskaja/St. Petersburg and Patrizia Tassini/Italy.

In 1999, 2004 and 2008 Agnė repeatedly received first prizes in national piano competitions as well as chamber music competitions. She has participated in numerous international harp competitions. At the 3. International Harp Competition in Lille she reached the final and in 2007 she received the honorary award for her solo program and the First Prize in the division harp trio at the International Harp Competition in Moscow.

Agnė received a special honor by winning the selection for "Focus on Youth" and representing her country at the World Harp Congress in Dublin (2005) and Amsterdam (2008).

In 2009 she became the youngest ever selected candidate at the famous ARD-Competition in Munich. She recently received an award from the Lithuanian president for her remarkable musical achievements.

In 2006 Agnė performed her debut in Germany together with Florence Sitruk in Hamburg. Other concerts have lead her to St. Petersburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Vilnius.



## Jaap Kruithof

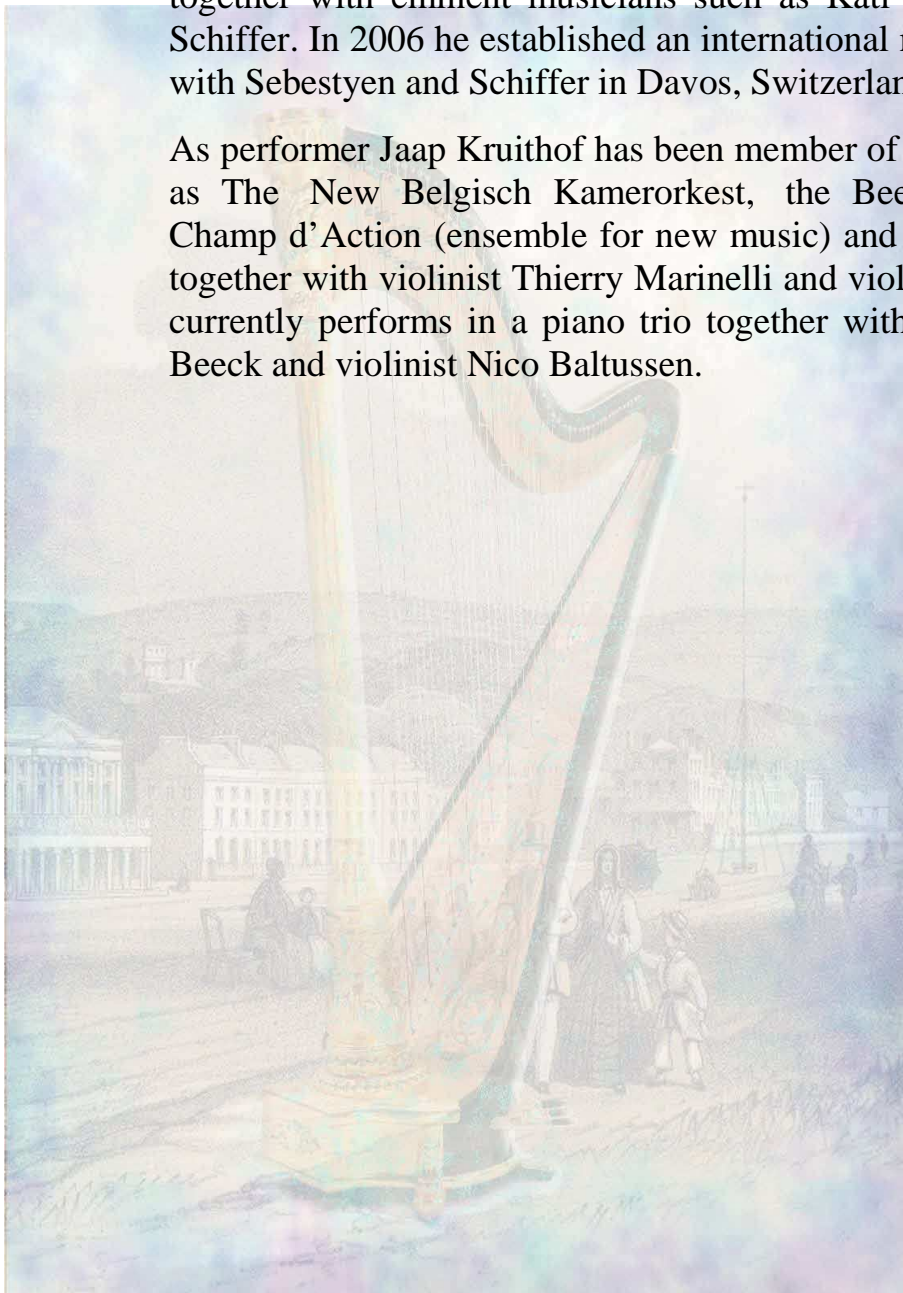
### Cello



Jaap Kruithof is professor of cello and chamber music at the Lemmensinstitute in Leuven, Belgium, and guest professor of cello and cello literature studies at the Royal Flemish Conservatory in Antwerp. Kruithof furthermore teaches at the Academy of Borgerhout (Antwerp) and the Academy of Oud-Heverlee (Leuven). His teachers included Hans Mannes at the Lemmensinstitute in Leuven and Jeroen Reuling at the Conservatory of Zwolle.

For many years Kruithof was a senior member of the faculty at the Cours International de Musique in Morges, Switzerland, working together with eminent musicians such as Kati Sebestyén and Ervin Schiffer. In 2006 he established an international music course together with Sebestyén and Schiffer in Davos, Switzerland.

As performer Jaap Kruithof has been member of such renowned groups as The New Belgisch Kamerorkest, the Beethovenacademie, the Champ d'Action (ensemble for new music) and the "Viotti-strijktrio" together with violinist Thierry Marinelli and violist Ervin Schiffer. He currently performs in a piano trio together with pianist Anne Op de Beeck and violinist Nico Baltussen.



## Christoph Bunzendahl

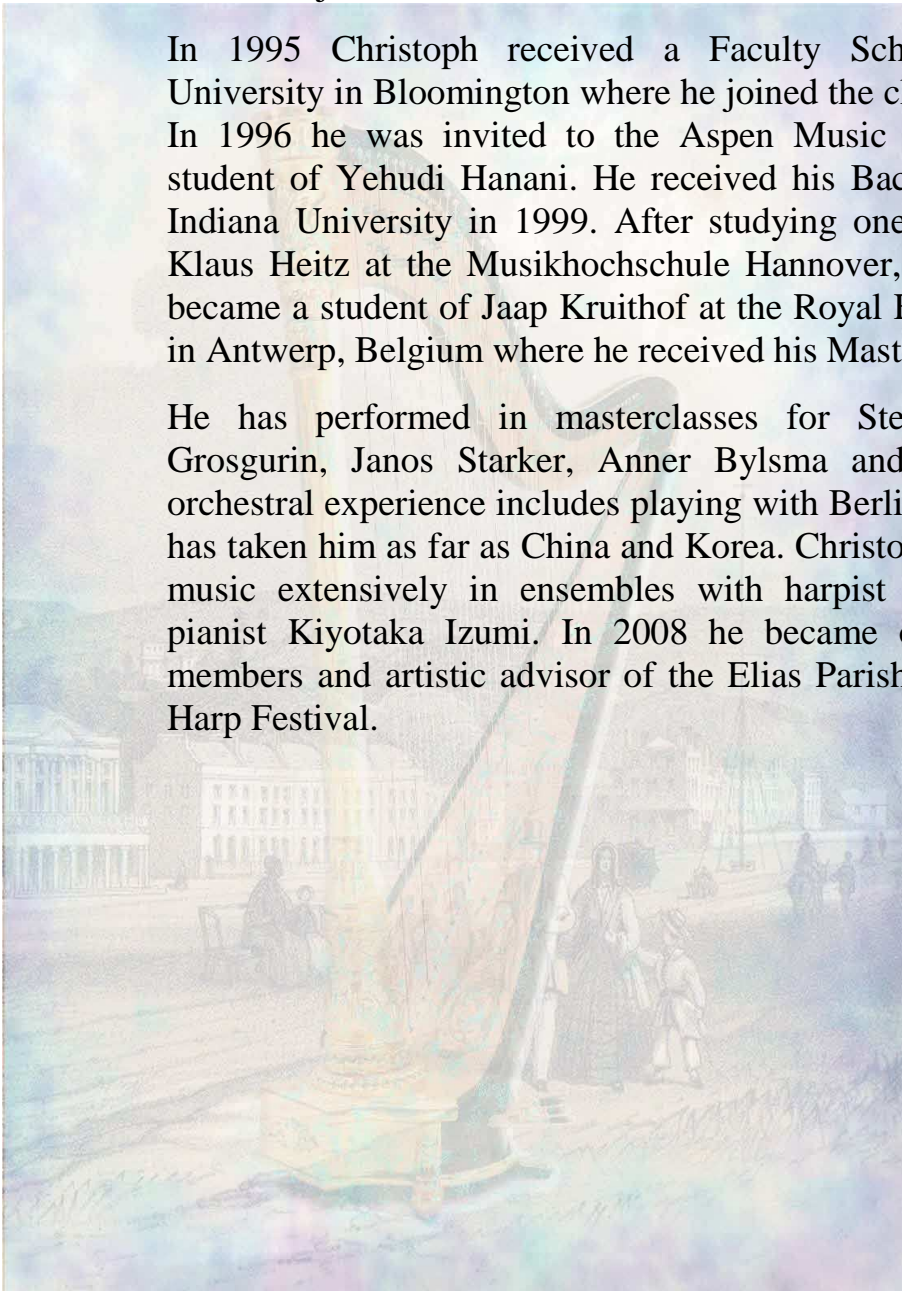
### Cello



Christoph Bunzendahl began his studies at age six with Gerhard Pohl, cellist of the Nord Deutscher Rundfunk, Hannover. Between 1986 and 1990 he participated in the competition Jugend Musiziert, winning on regional and state levels. In 1990 he was accepted as student of Konrad Haessler, Professor at the Musikhochschule Hannover. In 1991 his family moved to Chapel Hill (North Carolina, USA), where he became a student of Brent Wissick at the University of North Carolina. In 1993 he received the first prize at the North Carolina Music Teacher Association Solo Competition. A year later he was invited to join the National Honors Orchestra of America.

In 1995 Christoph received a Faculty Scholarship to Indiana University in Bloomington where he joined the class of Helga Winold. In 1996 he was invited to the Aspen Music Festival becoming a student of Yehudi Hanani. He received his Bachelor of Music from Indiana University in 1999. After studying one year with Professor Klaus Heitz at the Musikhochschule Hannover, Germany, Christoph became a student of Jaap Kruithof at the Royal Flemish Conservatory in Antwerp, Belgium where he received his Master of Music in 2004.

He has performed in masterclasses for Stephan Kates, Daniel Grosgrin, Janos Starker, Anner Bylsma and Zara Nelsova. His orchestral experience includes playing with Berliner Symphoniker and has taken him as far as China and Korea. Christoph performs chamber music extensively in ensembles with harpist Florence Sitruk and pianist Kiyotaka Izumi. In 2008 he became one of the founding members and artistic advisor of the Elias Parish Alvars International Harp Festival.



**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April**

1:00 pm, Bitton House

*'François Servais (1807-1866): A Touring Cellist in the Golden Age of Virtuosity'*

Lecture by **Peter François**,  
President of the Servais Society

**Peter François**



Peter François graduated as a Master of History and subsequently as a Master of Musicology from Leuven University, Belgium. His current scientific activities focus on the music scene in the nineteenth century, more specifically on the life and work of François Servais (1807-1866), a well-known Belgian cellist and composer. Since 2003 he has been president of the Servais Society and as such he is responsible for the Servais collection of the "Zuidwestbrabants Museum", in Halle. He was also co-ordinator of the 'Festival Servais 2007', which celebrated Servais' bicentenary anniversary. His researches in the records in the whole of Europe have already resulted in some thirty publications, among which the website [www.servais-vzw.org](http://www.servais-vzw.org) and the book "Ah! Le métier de donneur de concerts! Adrien François Servais (1807-1866) als rondreizend cellovirtuoos" (2007). He also curated the exhibition "Adrien François Servais 1807-2007", held in Halle between 4th May and 6th June, 2007.

***François Servais, the Paganini of the Cello***

*François Servais was one of Europe's leading cellists, often called 'the Paganini of the Cello'. Born in 1807 in Halle, near the Belgian capital Brussels, he was fascinated by music right from childhood. In 1833 Servais made his first appearance in Paris while his London debut took place in 1835. In 1839 he started his extended tours, which established his reputation as one of the greatest of virtuosi. His concert tours frequently took him to Austria, Poland, Russia and the Ukraine. Furthermore he visited Northern and Eastern Europe. Servais died in Halle in 1866. As a cello virtuoso he made a valuable contribution to the cello technique. He extended its technical possibilities and always played with an endpin, which was soon to be copied. These innovations and his numerous solo performances contributed to the breakthrough of the cello as a solo instrument in its own right. From 1848 to 1866 he held the position of principal professor of cello playing at the Brussels Conservatory. As a composer he kept his end up, too. His œuvre includes some ninety pieces, of which four cello concertos, many other works for cello with symphony orchestra, quartet, quintet or piano and a series of duos for cello and piano or violin. Nowadays his œuvre is still performed all over the world.*

*Peter François will talk about Servais' career as a travelling virtuoso, his part in the development of cello technique and his contribution the cello repertoire.*

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April**  
8:00 pm, St-James Church

**Jana Boušková, Harp**

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach  
(1714-1788)

Sonata in G minor  
*Adagio un poco - Allegro - Allegro*

Franz Anton Rössler-Rosetti  
(1746-1792)

Sonata in E flat Major  
*Allegro assai - Adagio non tanto - Allegretto*

Jan Ladislav Dusík  
(1761-1812)

Sonata E flat minor  
*Allegro brillante - Andantino - Rondo- Allegro moderato*

Intermission

Elias Parish-Alvars  
(1808-1849)

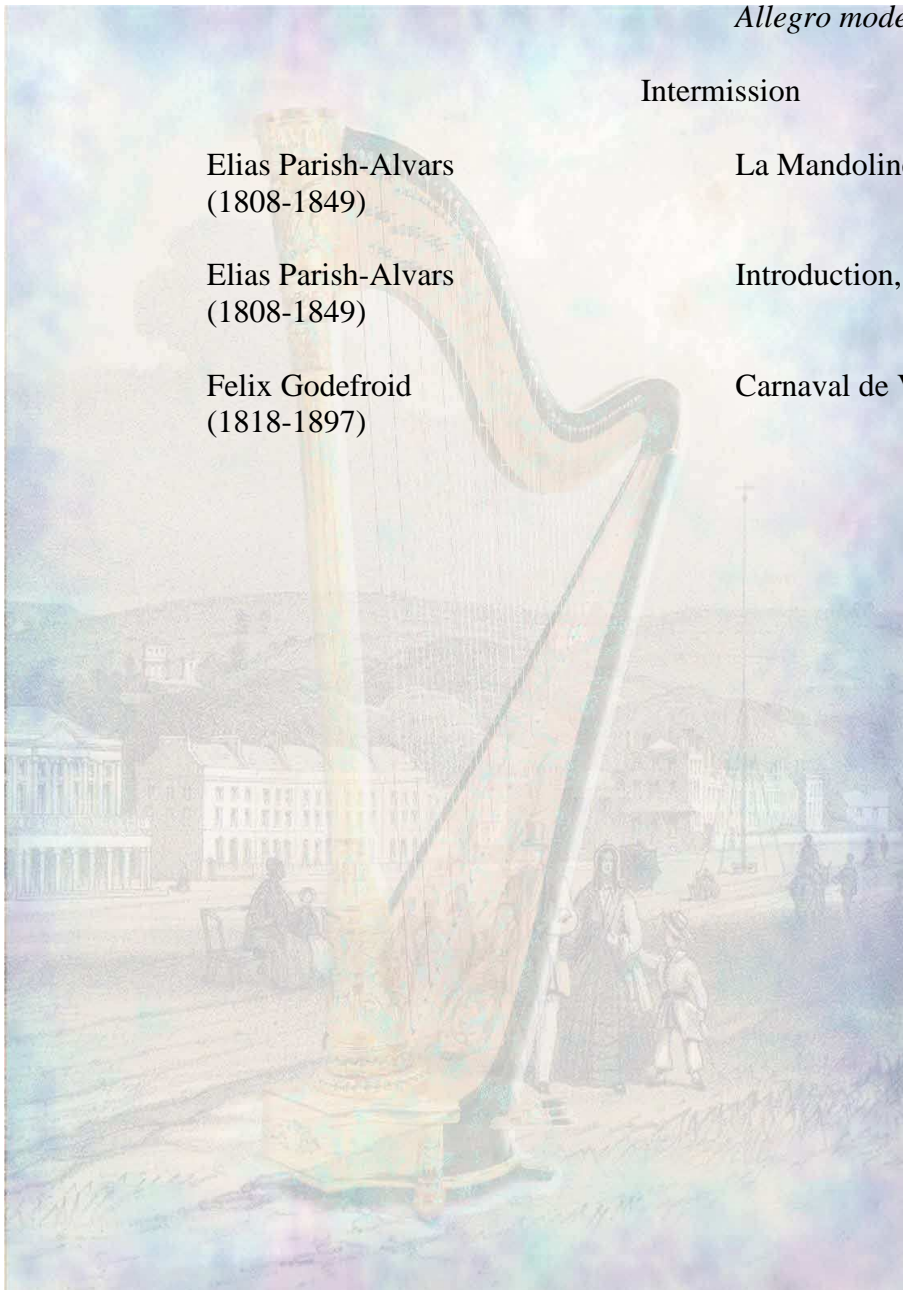
La Mandoline - Grande Fantasia

Elias Parish-Alvars  
(1808-1849)

Introduction, Cadenza and Rondo

Felix Godefroid  
(1818-1897)

Carnaval de Venise, op. 184



## Jana Boušková

### Harp



Jana Bouskova has to her credit some truly remarkable artistic triumphs, a record which has turned her to a much sought-after harpist and a regular guest of the world's foremost concert platforms, appearing both as a soloist and as the partner of the likes of Mstislav Rostropovich, Yuri Bashmet, Patrick Gallois, Maxim Vengerov, Janne Thomsen, Sharon Kam, Christian Tetzlaff, Gustav Rivinius, and others.

Jana Bouskova studied at the Prague Conservatoire and then pursued her schooling at the Ostrava University, in the class of Professor Libuse Vachalova. A Fulbright scholarship grant then enabled her to study at America's renowned Indiana University, with Professor Susann McDonald. Jana Bouskova is this country's sole harpist to have achieved the highest awards from the world's most prestigious competitions: gold medal from the International Harp Competition in the U.S.A., and second prize from the International Harp Contest in Israel. Her numerous other awards include victory in the Concours International de Musique de Chambre in Paris, which she won in 1989, in a duet with flautist Janne Thomsen. She is also the winner of first prize from the 1999 edition of the Torneo Internazionale di Musica in Italy. Her exceptional concert platform achievement and contribution to the development of harp playing earned her the 1999 Harpa Award in Switzerland, apart from which she became a laureate of the Juventus Festival in France. In this country, she received the 1996 Talent of the Year award, and in 2002, the Czech Music Council Award for her merits in spreading Czech music and representing Czech interpreting art on the international scene. As one of the Czech Republic's ten most distinguished women, she was the first ever classical music instrumental interpreter to receive the Lady Pro prize, which was handed over to her in the presence of the President of the Republic, Vaclav Klaus, in the Spanish Hall of Prague Castle, in the autumn of 2004.

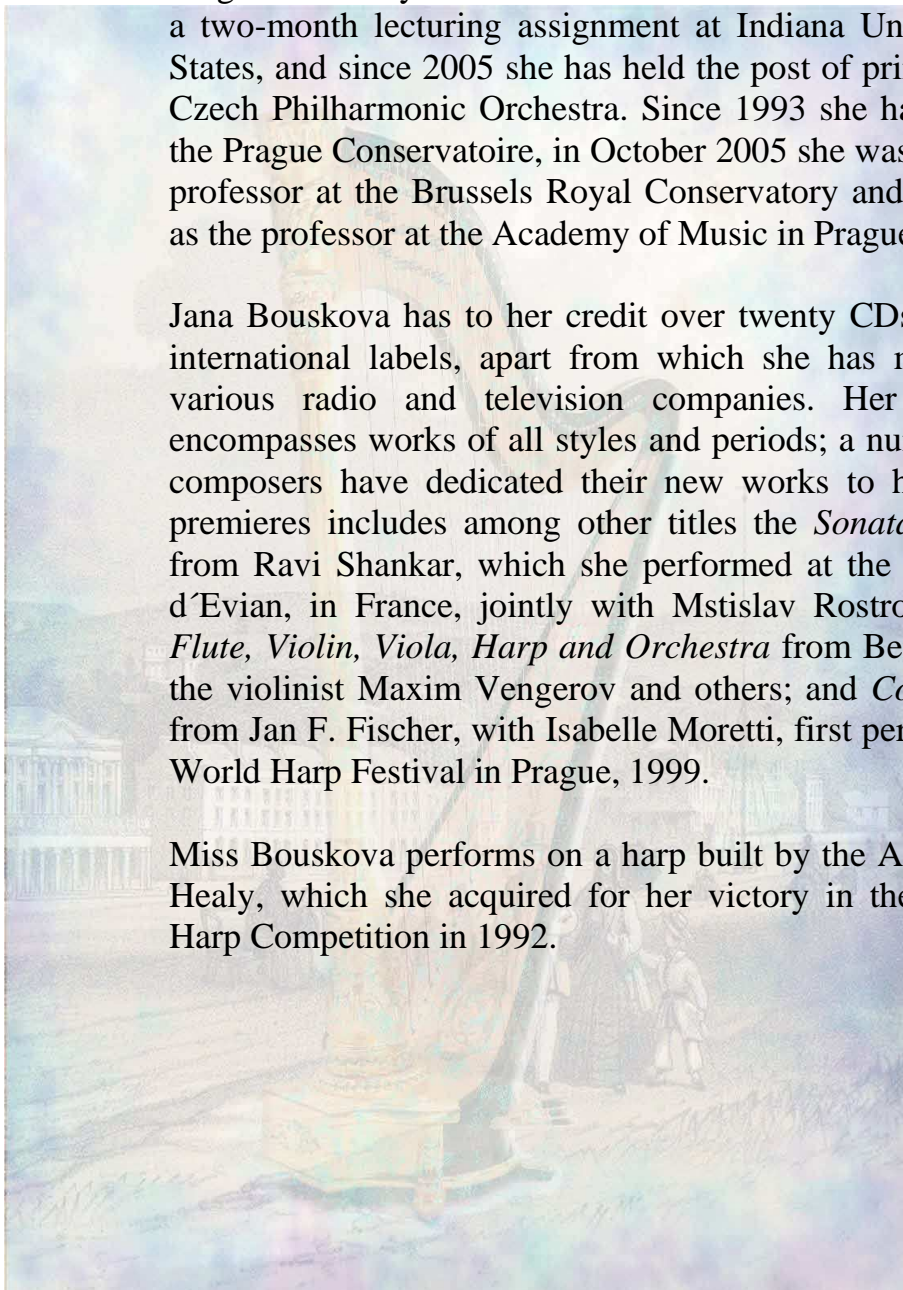
Miss Bouskova appears regularly on prestigious domestic and international concert platforms and festivals. Doubtless her most notable achievements have included solo recitals at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center (New York), Paris' Châtelet, the Prague Spring Festival and the Berliner Festtage, as well as her appearance in the gala concert marking the 50th birthday of Yuri Bashmet in Moscow; plus a major tour of Israel and Europe jointly with the violinist Maxim Vengerov; work in the field of chamber music with many outstanding artists at the Spannungen Festival in Germany, Parry Sound in Ontario, Festival des Lautéats Juventus Cambrai and Elba Isola Musicale d'Europa; joint performance with flautists Emmanuel Pahude and Mathieu Defour, and harpist Marie-Pierre Langlamet at the Théâtre de la Ville; and major German tours with the flautist Patrick Gallois. As an orchestra soloist (with, among others, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Prague Philharmonia, Chicago Sinfonietta, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra,

MDR Symphonieorchester Leipzig, or Tokyo Chamber Orchestra), she has appeared in the concert halls of the Berlin and Cologne Philharmonic Orchestras, Tokyo's Suntory Hall, Leipzig's Gewandhaus, Chicago's Symphony Center, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Prague's Rudolfinum, and many others.

Jana Bouskova receives regular invitations to take part in international harp congresses and symposia, and to teach at numerous master classes in various parts of the world. In 2004 she sat on the jury of the International Harp Competition in the U.S.A., Lily Laskine Harp Competition in France, and International Harp Contest in Israel in 2006. In 1999 she was artistic director of the Seventh World Harp Congress in Prague. Since 2000 she has been a member of the Artistic Board of the Prague Academy of Music. In 2002 she received an invitation to take up a two-month lecturing assignment at Indiana University in the United States, and since 2005 she has held the post of principal harpist with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. Since 1993 she has been a professor of the Prague Conservatoire, in October 2005 she was appointed as the harp professor at the Brussels Royal Conservatory and in October 2006 also as the professor at the Academy of Music in Prague

Jana Bouskova has to her credit over twenty CDs made for Czech and international labels, apart from which she has made programmes for various radio and television companies. Her extensive repertoire encompasses works of all styles and periods; a number of contemporary composers have dedicated their new works to her. Her list of world premieres includes among other titles the *Sonata for Cello and Harp* from Ravi Shankar, which she performed at the Rencontres Musicales d'Evian, in France, jointly with Mstislav Rostropovich; *Concerto for Flute, Violin, Viola, Harp and Orchestra* from Benjamin Yusupov, with the violinist Maxim Vengerov and others; and *Concerto for two Harps* from Jan F. Fischer, with Isabelle Moretti, first performed at the Seventh World Harp Festival in Prague, 1999.

Miss Bouskova performs on a harp built by the American firm, Lyon & Healy, which she acquired for her victory in the U.S.A. International Harp Competition in 1992.



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of April**  
10:30 am, Methodist Church

*Student Recital*

Participants of the 2010 Masterclass for Harp and

**Giulia Ott** (Switzerland), Harp

1st prize winner of the 1st International Harp Competition for young talents "Elias Parish Alvars" 2008

Louis Spohr  
(1784-1859)

Fantaisie c minor, op.35 (1807)

Elias Parish-Alvars  
(1808-1849)

Introduction et Variations on themes  
from Bellini's opera Norma for harp  
solo, op.36

Franz Liszt  
(1811-1886)

Nocturne, No. 3 des Reves d`Amour  
pour la harpe, Arr. H.Renié

Gabriel Pierné  
(1863-1937)

Impromptu-Caprice pour la harpe,  
op.9

**Giulia Ott**  
**Harp**



Giulia Géraldine Ott was born in 1993. She began her studies at the age of seven years with the teacher Nicola Hanck at the Music School in Basel. She won several national and international prizes for solo harp and chamber music, among which the Martin Géliot Int. Harp Competition, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the 1<sup>st</sup> Int. Elias Parish Alvars Competition in Teignmouth/Devon 2008 gave her international recognition. Since 2007 she has been a member in Florence Sitruk's "classe pour jeune talents" at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Genève and represented her country Switzerland at the X<sup>th</sup> World Harp Congress in Amsterdam, in the world wide selection of "Focus on Youth". She is currently studying at the Basel Academy of Music with Sarah O'Brien. Giulia already played as a soloist with the Youth Symphony Orchestra in Basel. Beside her school career at the Gymnasium Kirschgarten for sciences, she plays chamber music and solo concerts in her hometown.





The Golsongott Foundation

Many thanks from the team of the festival to:

Tracey Higgs  
David Tickell  
The citizens of Teignmouth



The EPA Festival not liable for accidents or lost items which occur during the festival.