



The Cyprus Wine Museum
42 Knights & Pafos Street, P.O.Box 23
4630 Erimi, Limassol, Cyprus
Tel: 00357 25873808 / Fax: 00357 25821718
Mob: 00357 99907636
orchestra@cypruswinemuseum.com /
cypruswinemuseum@cytanet.com.cy
www.cypruswinemuseum.com

Press Release in English follows

από τη Ρωσία με αγάπη

**Θεματική συναυλία της Commandaria Orchestra
Αφιερωμένη στη ρωσική κλασική μουσική**

**μαέστρος | FRANCIS GUY
σολίστ / βιόλα | ALEXEI LUDEVIG | Ρωσία**

**ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ | 2 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2018 | ΩΡΑ: 20:00
δημοτικό θέατρο Στροβόλου
ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ**

Εισιτήριο:<http://www.tickethour.com.cy>

Πληροφορίες/ Κρατήσεις : 77777040 και 22671607
<http://www.kyp.rs.gov.ru/en>

<https://www.cypruswinemuseum.com/from-russia-with-love-alexei-ludevig-viola/>

Με πρωτοβουλία του Ρωσικού Πολιτιστικού Κέντρου στην Κύπρο διοργανώνεται σε συνεργασία με την Commandaria Orchestra, ορχήστρα δωματίου του Κυπριακού Οινομουσείου, θεματική συναυλία αφιερωμένη στη ρωσική κλασική μουσική με τίτλο, «Από τη Ρωσία με αγάπη».

Η συναυλία εντάσσεται στα πλαίσια της διεθνούς δράσης της Πρεσβείας της Ρωσικής Ομοσπονδίας και του Ρωσικού Πολιτιστικού Κέντρου στην Κύπρο με τίτλο, «Σεζόν Ρωσικού Θεάτρου στην Κύπρο», το οποίο άρχισε φέτος στις αρχές Οκτώβριου και θα λήξει τον Ιούνιο

του 2020. Το διεθνές αυτό γεγονός είναι υπό την αιγίδα του Προέδρου της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας, Νίκου Αναστασιάδη.

Ιδιαίτερη σημασία της συνεργασίας αυτής, είναι η εμφάνιση του διεθνούς φήμης, βιρτουόζου βιολίστα, Alexei Ludevig με την Commandaria Orchestra, ο οποίος θα ερμηνεύσει έργα για σόλο βιόλα και ορχήστρα εγχόρδων των Khandoshkin και Rachmaninoff.

Το Κοντσέρτο για βιόλα και ορχήστρα εγχόρδων, στην Ντο μείζονα, του Ivan Khandoshkin, είναι ένα αριστούργημα, με ιδιαίτερη ιστορική σημασία για τη Ρώσικη μουσική σχολή, αφού γράφτηκε το 1801, από τον «Πατέρα» της Ρωσικής βιολινιστικής σχολής και έθεσε τις βάσεις για τα αριστουργηματικά ρομαντικά ρωσικά κοντσέρτα για βιολί και ορχήστρα.

Ο Alexei Ludevig, ο οποίος απολαμβάνει διεθνή καριέρα και αναγνώριση, εμφανίζεται για πρώτη φορά στην Κύπρο και θα παίξει σε βιόλα κατασκευασμένη από τον Antonio Mariani το 1661.

Το πρόγραμμα της συναυλίας, πέραν από το Κοντσέρτο του Khandoshkin και το Vocalise του Rachmaninoff, περιλαμβάνει επίσης αριστουργήματα του ρωσικού ρομαντισμού όπως την χαριτωμένη Σερενάτα του Vasily Kallinikov, και την πανέμορφη και συνάμα απαιτητική Σερενάτα για έγχορδα του Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Η συναυλία είναι υπό τη διεύθυνση του καλλιτεχνικού διευθυντή της Commandaria Orchestra, αρχιμουσικού Francis Guy.

Ο Francis Guy είναι μια από τις σημαντικές νεαρές μουσικές προσωπικότητες που έχει να παρουσιάσει η Κύπρος, ο οποίος πέραν από τη διεθνή του καλλιτεχνική δράση, υπηρετεί ποικιλοτρόπως τον Κυπριακό πολιτισμό. Η ιδιαιτερότητα που χαρακτηρίζει το ρεπερτόριο του καλλιτεχνικού του σχεδιασμού με την Commandaria Orchestra και η σειρά από πετυχημένα γεγονότα και συναυλίες, δεν έχουν μόνο αναδείξει την ορχήστρα και να αγαπηθεί το είδος αυτό από το μουσικόφιλο κοινό της Κύπρου, αλλά εντάσσει σταδιακά το σχήμα αυτό στη διεθνή μουσική σκηνή αφού η ορχήστρα έχει περιοδεύσει, υπό τη διεύθυνση του, σε διεθνή μουσικά φεστιβάλ της ανατολικής Ευρώπης.

Commandaria Orchestra

Ιδρύθηκε το 2009 από το Κυπριακό Οινομουσείο. Το όνομα της ορχήστρας οφείλεται στην τοποθεσία που βρίσκεται το Κυπριακό Οινομουσείο, στο ιστορικό διοικητικό κέντρο της Μεγάλης Κουμανδαρίας (Κάστρο Κολοσσιού), το οποίο ιδρύθηκε από το τάγμα των Ιωαννιτών Ιπποτών. Κουμανδαρία ονομάζεται, επίσης, το μοναδικό στον κόσμο γλυκόπιτο κρασί της Κύπρου, για το οποίο γίνονται αναφορές από τον Όμηρο και τον Ησίοδο. Η λέξη 'ορχήστρα' έχει τις ρίζες της από τη λέξη 'όρχος' η οποία τα ομηρικά χρόνια σήμαινε σειρά αμπελιών και συνδέεται με τη Διονυσιακή λατρεία.

Η Ορχήστρα ΚΟΥΜΑΝΔΑΡΙΑ έχει ως στόχο την υλοποίηση των οραμάτων του Οινομουσείου, οι οποίοι περιλαμβάνουν, μεταξύ άλλων, τη διάδοση του εγχώριου λόγιου πολιτισμού. Το πλούσιο ρεπερτόριο της ορχήστρας περιλαμβάνει έργα από τον Μεσαίωνα έως τις μέρες μας. Έχει παρουσιάσει και ηχογραφήσει μεγάλο αριθμό έργων στην Κύπρο και στο εξωτερικό, όπου τα πλείστα είναι αφιερωμένα στην ίδια την ορχήστρα.

FROM RUSIA WITH LOVE

Theme Concert of The Commandaria Orchestra with Russian Classical Music

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 2ND 2018 | Starts: 20:00
Strovolos Municipal Theatre
NICOSIA

Ticket: <http://www.tickethour.com.cy>

Information and Reservations: 77777040 and 22671607
<http://www.kyp.rs.gov.ru/en>

<https://www.cypruswinemuseum.com/from-rusia-with-love-alexei-ludevig-viola/>

conductor | FRANCIS GUY
soloist / Viola | ALEXEI LUDEVIG | **Russia**

Initiated by the Russian Cultural Centre in Cyprus and co-organized with The Commandaria Orchestra -chamber orchestra of The Cyprus Wine Museum-, the theme concerts are dedicated to Russian classical music with the title "From Russia with Love".

The concert is part of the large-scale International Project "Russian Theatre Seasons in Cyprus", for which the Commandaria Orchestra and The Cyprus Wine Museum will collaborate in a series of concerts and events. The "Russian Theatre Seasons in Cyprus" starts in October 2018 until June 2020 and is organized by The Embassy of the Russian Federation and the Russian Cultural Centre, Nicosia, Cyprus. The entire project is under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Cyprus Nikos Anastasiades.

Particular importance of this cooperation is the appearance of the renowned viola virtuoso Alexei Ludevig with The Commandaria Orchestra who will perform works for solo viola and string orchestra composed by Khandoshkiv and Rachmaninoff.

Ivan Khandoshkin's Viola concerto in C is a masterpiece, with particular historical significance for the Russian music school for as it was written by the "Father" of the Russian violin school and has set the fundamentals for the adorable Russian romantic violin concerti.

Alexei Ludevig, who at the moment is enjoying an international career and recognition, appears for the first time in Cyprus and he we will perform on a 1661 viola created by Antonio Mariani.

The concert program, except fot the Concerto by Khandoshkin and Rachmaninoff's Vocalise, also includes masterpieces from the Russian romanticism, such as the charming Serenade by

Vasily Kallinikov, and the gorgeous and at the same time demanding Serenade for Strings by Piotr Ilych Tchaikovsky. The concert is under the baton of Commandaria Orchestra's artistic director, maestro Francis Guy.

Francis Guy is one of the important young musical personalities that Cyprus has to present, that in addition to his international artistic career, he serves Cyprus culture in various aspects and fields. The uniqueness that characterizes the repertoire of Commandaria Orchestra's artistic planning and the row of successful projects and concerts, have not only highlighted the orchestra itself and caused this genre to be loved by the audience of Cyprus, but it have also gradually integrated this ensemble into the international musical scene since the orchestra has toured, under his baton, in international musical festivals of eastern Europe.

The Commandaria Orchestra of Cyprus was established in 2009 by The Cyprus Wine Museum. The appellation of the Orchestra directly refers to the region where the Orchestra and The Cyprus Wine Museum are based, the Great Commandery of Cyprus (Kolossi Castle) which was founded by the Order of Saint John. Commandaria is also the unique sweet wine of Cyprus that Homer and Hesiod mention in their opuses.

The word 'orchestra' has its roots in the word 'orchos', which during the Homeric years meant row of vines and it is related to the cult of Dionysus.

Mission: The Commandaria Orchestra's main target is the implementation of the visions of The Cyprus Wine Museum, not least of which is the desire to promote Cypriot culture. The rich repertoire (chamber and symphonic) of the orchestra includes theme masterpieces related to the Middle Ages and the performance of contemporary music. A number of first performances – most of which were dedicated to the orchestra – have been performed and recorded.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 2ND 2018



www.cypruswinemuseum.com/commandaria-orchestra/

conductor | FRANCIS GUY | united kingdom

soloist | ALEXEI LUDEVIG | russia

strovolos municipal theatre

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 2ND 2018

PROGRAMME

FROM RUSIA WITH LOVE

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 2ND 2018

vasily kalinnikov | SERENADE FOR STRINGS

1. **Andantino**

ivan khandoshkin | CONCERTO FOR VIOLA

1. **Moderato**

2. CANZONA **Andante**

3. RONDO "La chasse"

FOR SOLO VIOLA AND STRINGS. (AR. FARBOD FANI)

sergei rachmaninoff | VOCALISE

1. **Lentamente**

pyotr tchaikovsky | SERENADE

1. PEZZO IN FORMA DI SONATINA **Andante non troppo – Allegro moderato**

2. WALZER **Moderato – Tempo di valse**

3. ELÉGIE **Largetto elegiac**

4. FINALE (TEMA RUSSO) **Andante – Allegro con spirit**

SERENADE for strings

Vasily Sergeyevich Kalinnikov

January 13, 1866, Oryol Governorate

January 11, 1901, Yalta

Kalinnikov is a Russian composer of two symphonies, several additional orchestral works and numerous songs, all of them imbued with characteristics of folksong. His symphonies, particularly the First, were frequently performed in the early 20th century.

Many notable compositions in the form of the serenade for string orchestra flourished during the late Romantic era. Those of Tchaikovsky, that it will be performed also tonight, Dvořák, Suk, and Elgar immediately come to mind.

Kalinnikov's single movement version, marked Andantino, is one of the shorter and lighter renditions. Written in 1891 when the composer was just 25, Serenade for Strings permeates qualities of Russian folksong that characterized all of his major compositions. The themes are lyrical and immediately likeable, and although presented on the whole as a melancholy waltz, the melodic layers also unfold a sense of tranquility and content.

VIOLA CONCERTO AND STRINGS* in C Major

Ivan Yevstafyevich Khandoshkin

1747, Myrhorod Raion

March 30, 1804, Saint Petersburg

Ivan Khandoshkin was born into a Cossack family near Myrhorod. He was related to the family of Hetman Danylo Apostol. Ivan's father Ostap was trained as a tailor, but eventually became a professional French horn and percussion player in the court orchestra of Tsar Peter III.

Ivan studied under Tito Porta with other Italian influences being Domenico dall'Oglio and Pietro Peri. He was a musician at the Russian court, of which he later became kapellmeister, from 1765 and he taught violin at the Yekaterinoslav Musical Academy, founded by Potemkin in 1785. After Potemkin's death Khandoshkin was forced to resign by Giuseppe Sarti who was considered his rival and returned to St. Petersburg in 1789.

The so-called "Khandoshkin viola concerto in C Major", written in 1801 was published for the first time by the State Publishing House, Moscow, in 1947 and released in the former Soviet Union on Melodya, with Rudolf Barshai playing viola and conducting the Moscow Chamber Orchestra is historical pearl that every music lover should have the chance to listen and admire.

*Cyprus Premier

VOCALISE for Solo Viola and Strings

Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninoff (Arranged by Farbod Fani)

April 1, 1873, Starorussky Uyezd

March 28 1943, Beverly Hills, California, United States

Rachmaninoff was a Russian pianist, composer, and conductor of the late Romantic period, some of whose works are among the most popular in the Romantic repertoire.

The vocalise was originally written around 1912 and was published as the last of a set of fourteen songs. The first thirteen songs were set to poems written by Russian romantic poets including Pushkin, Polonsky, Korinfsky and Shaginyan. In contrast the vocalise was written without words relying for its success entirely on the beauty of the melodic line. It quickly became the most successful song of the set and has remained one of his most popular compositions.

Rachmaninoff revised it in 1915 and made several arrangements including ones for solo piano, violin and piano and for orchestra. Other arrangers have made versions for many other instrumental combinations, such the one that is going to be performed tonight.

SERENADE in C major for String Orchestra

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

May 7, 1840. Votkinsk, district of Viatka, Russia

November 6, 1893. Saint Petersburg

In the fall of 1880, Tchaikovsky set to work simultaneously on two very different pieces. One was the Serenade for Strings; the other was the 1812 Overture.

To his benefactress, Madame Nadezhda von Meck, he wrote: "I have written two long works very rapidly; the festival overture and a Serenade in four movements for string orchestra. The overture will be very noisy. I wrote it without much warmth or enthusiasm; and therefore, it has no great artistic value. The Serenade on the contrary, I wrote from an inward impulse: I felt it; and I venture to hope that this work is not without artistic qualities."

In a way, the two pieces are opposites, for the Serenade—lyric, open, relaxed—is everything the bombastic 1812 Overture is not, and it comes as no surprise that Tchaikovsky had such fondness for this music.

pezzo in forma di sonatina:

andante non troppo—allegro moderato.

Tchaikovsky intended this work's opening movement as an homage to one of his favorite composers: Mozart. Although Tchaikovsky called the

composition a serenade and specifically set the first movement in sonatina form—both of which suggest an absence of rigorous formal development—this music is nevertheless beautifully unified. The powerful descending introduction quickly gives way to the Allegro moderato, based on two subjects: a broadly-swung melody for full orchestra and a sparkling theme for violins. Tchaikovsky brings back the introductory theme to close out the movement.

walzer: moderato–tempo di valse

Waltzes were a specialty of Tchaikovsky, and this movement is one of his finest. It gets off to a graceful start, grows more animated as it proceeds, then falls away to wink out on two pizzicato strokes.

elégie: larghetto elegiac

The third movement, titled Elegie, begins with a quiet melody that soon grows in intensity and beauty. The mood here never becomes tragic—the Serenade remains, for the most part, in major keys—but the depth of feeling with which this Larghetto elegiac unfolds makes it the emotional center of the entire work.

finale (tema Russo): andante–allegro con spirit

The finale has a wonderful beginning. Very quietly the violins play a melody based on a Russian folk tune, reputedly an old hauling song from the Volga River, and suddenly the main theme bursts out and the movement takes wing. The Allegro con spirito theme is closely related to the introduction of the first movement, and at the end Tchaikovsky deftly combines these two themes to bring one of his friendliest compositions to an exciting close.

ALEXEILUDEVIG

VIOLA

Alexei Ludevig was born in St Petersburg, Russia, where he studied viola with Yuri Bashmet, Dmitry Shebalin (of the Borodin Quartet) and his father Alexei Ludevig Sr. In addition, he studied conducting with Maris Jansons.

He has performed in over a dozen countries on four different continents. As a soloist with orchestras including: the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Camerata St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk Philharmonic Orchestra, Berlin Radio Orchestra etc. As a soloist and chamber musician he has appeared with internationally renowned musicians including: Arnold Katz, Saulius Sondeckis, Michaela Martin, Arto Noras, Martti Rousi, Alexander Rudin, Liana Isakadze and Sergei Stadler at prestigious festivals such as; "Rancontres Musicales d'Evian", "Schleswig-Holstein", "St. Petersburg White Nights Festival", "Radio France Festival", Davos Music Festival, "St. Petersburg Palaces International Chamber Music Festival", of which he also served as co-artistic director with Constantine Orbelian. He was Artistic Director of "New Silver Age Music Festival".

Alexei Ludevig served as viola-solo of Orchestre Chambre de Lausanne, Orchestre Chambre de Toulouse, guest viola-solo at l'Opera de Lyon (by invitation of Kent Nagano), Academy of St. Martin in the Fields (by invitation of Neville Marriner). His repertoire spans three centuries. He has made world premieres of several works of Russian composers (Slonimsky, Uspensky, Sapozhnikov etc.), as well as pieces by modern American and French composers. Some of these works were written especially for him. He plays Antonio Mariani's viola 1661.

Mr Ludevig divides his time between work as a soloist and chamber musician performances mostly with the St Petersburg Chamber Soloists (which he founded) and teaching at the St. Petersburg Conservatoire and St. Petersburg Music College.

FRANCISGUY

CONDUCTOR

A conductor and musicologist, Dr. Francis-Nectarios Guy, has been known for his concert activities and publications focusing on western and southeastern European contemporary and medieval music creation.

He has studied and worked with distinguished choir and orchestra conductors, composers and musicologists around the globe.

Dr. Guy finds combining his concert activities with his research projects very challenging. The most recent example of this, is performing orchestral music written without bar-lines, in a series of concerts in Bulgaria, Greece, Poland and Russia. This "trend" is noted in modern and contemporary composers such as P. Boulez, G. Cancelli, Yiannis Christou, Dimitar Christoff and others.

The past years he has collaborated with international institutions, orchestras, ensembles, agencies and artists on various projects as the: National Opera of Bulgaria, State Opera of Varna, Sofia Symphonietta, Gabrovo Chamber Orchestra, Comédie de Genève, Russian Chamber Orchestra, Les Visiteurs du Soir Agency, BV Artists International, Pafos Cultural Capital of Europe 2017, Vladimir Galouzine, Natalia Tymchenko, Emilia Baranowska, Anatoly Krastav etc.

As a conductor, has appeared in 2015 edition of Sofia's Music Weeks International Festival. For this purpose, he has recorded with Gabrovo Chamber Orchestra three chamber compositions of Dimitar Christoff. In 2017 he is invited once again in Varna to conduct Plamen Kartalovs' and Varna's State Opera opera production which was part of Varna's 2017 International Music Festival.

He is the founder, artistic director and conductor of "The Commandaria Orchestra" which is under the umbrella of The Cyprus Wine Museum. Amongst of the achievement of the orchestra is the recording of Concerti for Clarinet and String Orchestra; Performances in Greece and Bulgaria 2012, 2013 and 2014; The collaboration with the National Opera of Bulgaria at the production of Gluck's opera Orfeo ed Euridice and with Comédie de Genève in the production of Michel Jarrell's contemporary opera Cassandre.

Amongst his publications are two scientific research works published in Bulgarian and Greek about the life and musical work of the great Greek composer Yorgos Sicilianos. He has published scientific research papers in three different languages, articles and other similar publications. Francis specializes also in Greek contemporary as well as Byzantine ecclesiastical music.

He leads the classes of "Orchestra and Opera Conducting" at the European University of Cyprus under the position of special scientist.

COMMANDARIA ORCHESTRA

www.cypruswinemuseum.com/commandaria-orchestra/

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | FRANCIS GUY

concert master

Pavel Rotaru

first violins

Hasmik Sargsyan
Robert Hovanesyan
Olivera Rialas

second violins

Mariana Doncheva
George Hadjigeorgiou
Varvara Merzlova - Peneva
George Georgiou

viola

Nikolas Efthymiou
Tefkros Xydias
Andreas Kelliris

cello

Evgenia Karapataki
Doros Zesimos

double bass

Eleana Andreou

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The appellation of the Orchestra directly refers to the region where the Orchestra and The Cyprus Wine Museum are based, the Great Commandery of Cyprus (Kolossi Castle) which was founded by the Order of Saint John. Commandaria is also the unique sweet wine of Cyprus that Homer and Hesiod mention in their opuses.

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Amongst the achievements of the Commandaria Orchestra are a series of concerts in Greece and Bulgaria in 2012 and 2013, collaborations with The Sofia National Opera and Ballet and The Varna State Opera, collaboration with The Comédie de Genève in the production of "Cassandre" by Michel Jarrell, directed by Hervé Loichemoui and performed by the French

actress Fanny Ardant during The Pafos 2017 European Capital Of Culture and many others.