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EVANGELISTA ARTISTS

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I Musicanti

About

IT START WITH -

An endless passion for *music*, for *voices*, for *discovery*, for *people*, for *life*.

The mixed instrument chamber ensemble I Musicanti comprises some of the most experienced and respected musicians to be found in the UK, hand-picked by the group's artistic director, international double bass virtuoso Leon Bosch.

Under Bosch's direction, I Musicanti presents distinctive programmes with a particular emphasis on music that has been lost and found or simply overlooked: great works by unknown composers and unknown works by great composers.

I Musicanti's flexible instrumentation means it can play in many formations, from a small string group to large ensembles for pieces such as Louise Farrenc's Nonet. A forthcoming project to record the 45 symphonies of Haydn's contemporary Johannes Matthias Sperger even sees it extend to a full chamber orchestra.

Many of the ensemble's projects are the result of Leon Bosch's vivid curiosity and commitment, something for which he is well known as a double bassist. But the ensemble also provides a vehicle for its members to pursue their own artistic projects. And although the musicians of I Musicanti are all soloists in their own right, the group also collaborates with international performers of the highest calibre.

In 2021, I Musicanti released their recording of string quintets by Giovanni Bottesini on the SOMM label. And while the group works with prestigious venues to promote its concerts and has appeared on BBC Radio 3's In Tune, its eye-catching programmes and the quality of performers add something unique to festivals and concert series.

Further information & music examples

EVANGELISTA ARTISTS

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Über I Musicanti

Das gemischt instrumentale Kammerensemble I Musicanti besteht aus einigen der erfahrensten und angesehensten Musiker Großbritanniens, die vom künstlerischen Leiter der Gruppe, dem internationalen Kontrabass-Virtuosen Leon Bosch, handverlesen wurden.

Unter der Leitung von Bosch präsentiert I Musicanti unverwechselbare Programme mit besonderem Schwerpunkt auf verloren gegangener oder einfach übersehener Musik: große Werke unbekannter Komponisten und unbekannte Werke großer Komponisten.

Die flexible Instrumentierung von I Musicanti bedeutet, dass in vielen Formationen musiziert werden kann, von einer kleinen Streichergruppe bis hin zu großen Ensembles für Stücke wie Louise Farrenc's Nonet. Ein anstehendes Projekt zur Einspielung der 45 Sinfonien von Haydn's Zeitgenossen Johannes Matthias Sperger sieht sogar die Erweiterung auf ein volles Kammerorchester vor.

Viele Projekte des Ensembles sind das Ergebnis der lebhaften Neugier und des Engagements von Leon Bosch, wofür er als Kontrabassist bekannt ist. Das Ensemble bietet seinen Mitgliedern aber auch die Möglichkeit für eigene künstlerische Projekte. Und obwohl die Musiker von I Musicanti alle eigenständige Solisten sind, arbeitet die Gruppe auch mit internationalen Künstlern auf höchstem Niveau zusammen.

2021 spielte I Musicanti drei Streichquintette von Giovanni Bottesini ein, die bei SOMM erschienen. Und während das Ensemble mit renommierten Veranstaltungsorten zusammenarbeitet, um für seine Konzerte zu werben, und im BBC Radio 3's In Tune aufgetreten ist, verleihen die bemerkenswerten Programme und die Qualität der Interpreten Festivals und Konzertreihen etwas Einzigartiges.

Weitere Informationen und Musikbeispiele

Performance Proposals

Ralph Vaughan Williams 150

(Born 12th October 1872)

Ralph Vaughan Williams – Piano Quintet in C minor 30’
Schubert, Franz – Piano Quintet in A major D. 667 ‘Trout’ 40’

Martin Roscoe – piano, Tamás András – violin, Robert Smissen – viola, Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass

Ralph Vaughan Williams – The Lark Ascending – Arranged for **solo cello with string orchestra/string quintet by Carl Hinde**
**** world premiere**

Richard Harwood – solo cello, Tamás András – violin, Benedict Holland – violin, Robert Smissen – viola, Ursula Smith - cello, Leon Bosch – double bass

Ralph Vaughan Williams – Quintet (1898) in D major for piano, clarinet, horn, violin, cello, and piano

Martin Roscoe – piano, Tamás András – violin, Leon Bosch – clarinet, Sibylle Mahni – horn, Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass

Ralph Vaughan Williams – Phantasy Quintet 15’

Tamás András and Benedict Holland – violins, Robert Smissen and Sarah-Jane Bradley – violas, Richard Harwood - cello

Beethoven More or Less

Beethoven: The Piano Concertos with String Quintet
Arranged by Vinzenz Lachner

Piano Concerto No.1 in C Op. 15
Piano Concerto No.2 in B-flat Op. 19
Piano Concerto No.3 in C minor Op. 37
Piano Concerto No.4 in G major Op. 58
Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat ‘Emperor’ Op. 73

**Martin Roscoe – piano, Tamás András and Benedict Holland - violins,
Robert Smissen – viola, Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch –
double bass**

Beethoven More or Less

**Beethoven: The Violin Concerto and Romances with String Quintet
Arranged by Carl Hinde**

**Violin Concerto in D Op.61
Romance No.1 in G Op.40
Romance No.2 in F Op.50**

**Tamás András - violin, Benedict Holland & Raja Halder - violins,
Robert Smissen – viola, Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch –
double bass**

Mostly Mozart

**Mozart: The Piano Concertos with String Quintet
Arranged by Vincenz Lachner**

**Piano Concerto No.12 in A major K.414
Piano Concerto No.19 in F major K.459
Piano Concerto No.20 in D minor K.466
Piano Concerto No.25 in C major K.503
Piano Concerto No.21 in C major K.467**

**Peter Donohoe – piano, Tamás András and Benedict Holland - violins,
Robert Smissen – viola, Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch –
double bass**

Louise Farrenc

The Chamber Music

Piano Quintets Op.30 & Op.31

**Martin Roscoe – piano, Tamás András - violin, Robert Smissen – viola,
Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass**

Quintet for Strings Op.38

**Tamás András, Benedict Holland - violins, Robert Smissen – viola,
Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass**

Nonet Op.38

**Tamás András and Benedict Holland – violins, Robert Smissen – viola,
Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass, Karen Jones -
Flute, Philip Nodel - oboe, Leon Bosch (Holland) – clarinet, Julie
Price – bassoon, Sibylle Mahni – French Horn**

Gioachino Rossini

The Complete Sonatas for Strings (2 violins, cello, and double bass)

**Sonata No.1 in G major
Sonata No.2 in A major
Sonata No. 3 in C major
Sonata No.4 in B-flat major
Sonata No.5 in E-flat major
Sonata No.6 in D major**

**Tamás András, Benedict Holland - violins, Richard Harwood – cello,
Leon Bosch – double bass**

Johann Baptist Cramer (1771 – 1858)

The Complete Piano Quintets Op.39, Op.69 & Op.79

**Piano Quintet No.1 Op.39,
Piano Quintet No.2 Op.69
Piano Quintet No.3 Op.79**

Miklós Rózsa (1907 – 1995)

The complete chamber music

String Trio, Op. 1 (1927)
Quintet for piano and string quartet, Op. 2 (1928)
Duo for violin and piano, Op. 7 (1931)
Duo for cello and piano, Op. 8 (1931)
Sonata for two violins, Op. 15 (1933, revised in 1973 as Op. 15a)
String Quartet No. 1, Op. 22 (1950)
String Quartet No. 2, Op. 38 (1981)

**Martin Roscoe – piano, Tamás András - violin, Robert Smissen – viola,
Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass**

Piano Quintets with Double Bass

Adolphe Blanc (1828 –1885) – Piano Quintet Op.39 *premiere*
Jan Ladislav Dussek – Piano Quintet in F minor Op. 41
Jan Nepomuk Hummel – Piano Quintet in E-flat minor Op.87
George Onslow – Piano Quintets Op.70 & Op.76
Louise Farrenc – Piano Quintets Op.30 & Op.31
John McCabe – Sam Variations
Peter Klatzow – Piano Quintet
Matthijs Van Dijk – But All I Wanna Do is Dance

**Martin Roscoe – piano, Tamás András – violin, Robert Smissen –
viola, Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass**

Piano Sextets

Mikhail Glinka – Grand Sextet
Mikhail Glinka – Divertissement on themes from La Sonnambula
Serge Lyapunov – Piano Sextet in B-flat Minor
Felix Mendelssohn – Piano Sextet in D Op.110 (2 violas)
William Sterndale Bennet – Piano Sextet in F-sharp Minor Op.8

**Piano – Martin Roscoe, Tamás András and Benedict Holland – violins,
Robert Smissen – viola, Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch –
double bass**

String Quintets with Double Bass

Dvorak – String Quintet in G Op.77
Boccherini – String Quintets G.337 G.338 & G.339
Adolphe Blanc – String Quintets No.3, 4 & 7
Louise Farrenc – String Quintet Op.48

George Onslow – String Quintets Op.10, 17 & 26

*Tamás András and Benedict Holland – violins, Robert Smissen – viola,
Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass*

String Septets and Octets

Richard Strauss – Metamorphosen (Septet version)

Max Bruch – Octet in B-flat Op. Posthumous

Mixed Strings and Wind Ensemble

(a) Mikhail Glinka – Septet

John Joubert – Octet Op.33

(Composed for the Melos Ensemble in 1961, but is yet to be broadcast
and recorded)

Franz Schubert – Octet in F D.803

(b) Adolphe Blanc – Septet Op.40

Beethoven – Septet in E-flat Op.20

Other Repertoire:

Franz Berwald – Septet

Max Bruch – Septet

Friedrich Witt – Septet

Jean Francaix – Octet

Howard Ferguson – Octet

Luis Spohr – Octet Op.32

Luis Spohr – Nonet Op.31

Nikolai Kapustin

Concert for 11 instruments Op.90

Piano Quintet Op.89

*Tamás András and Benedict Holland – violins, Robert Smissen – viola,
Richard Harwood – cello, Leon Bosch – double bass, Karen Jones –
Flute, Philip Nodel – oboe, Leon Bosch (Holland) – clarinet,
Julie Price – bassoon, Sibylle Mahni – French Horn*

I Musicanti with Guitar

W.A. Mozart – Flute Quartet in D K.285

Nicolo Paganini – Terzetto in D for violin, cello, and guitar

Franz Schubert – Quartet in G D.96 for flute, violin, cello, and guitar

Craig Ogden – guitar

Karen Jones – flute, Tamás András – violin, Richard Harwood – cello

I Musicanti the String Ensemble & Chamber Orchestra

Johannes Matthias Sperger (1750 – 1812)

The Complete Symphonies (45)

Johannes Matthias Sperger was a contemporary of Joseph Haydn – they knew each other – and amongst Sperger's 45 symphonies, is his ['Arrival' symphony](#) the deliberate mirror image to Haydn's 'Farewell' symphony.

Only a small handful of his symphonies has to date been recorded, and I am 100% certain that they have never been performed in London.

I have secured access to the manuscripts and in addition to producing editions, I Musicanti will soon embark on a project to record the complete symphonies for Naxos.

I propose to couple these with symphonies and concertos by Haydn, Mozart, and Dittersdorf, but also to include unusual works by 20th and 21st Century composers including Arutiunian, Kapustin, Tcherepnin, Paul Patterson and John Woolrich.

Leon Bosch - Biography

Leon Bosch conducts chamber and symphonic ensembles around the world and is one of the few double bass players to direct concertos from the instrument.

Having worked with the finest conductors for 30 years as a member of groups such as the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Philharmonia and Hallé, he learnt the repertoire and conductor's craft from inside the orchestra, and finally made the transition to the podium in 2015, when he left Academy of St Martin in the Fields and went to study in St Petersburg with Alexander Polishchuk. Since then, he has conducted orchestras across the UK, Europe, India, South Africa and Mozambique.

During his playing career, he performed concertos around the world and served as a guest with ensembles such as the Lindsays, Brodsky Quartet and Zukerman Chamber Players.

Leon is committed to rediscovering neglected music, as well as expanding and diversifying the double bass repertoire, and has recorded 16 CDs of wide-ranging programmes, with more in planning.

Throughout his career he has worked with leading composers, and his latest project is to revive the sonatina form for a programme he will tour and record for Meridian Records in 2021. He also commissions chamber arrangements of well-known symphonic classics for his ensemble I Musicanti and set up I Musicanti Publishing in order to distribute these works.

He is professor of double bass at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London and gives masterclasses in the US, Europe, South Africa, and the Far East. He has also served as double bass coach for youth orchestras including the I, Culture Orchestra, National Youth String Orchestra, Miagi Orchestra and Buskaid. He has contributed to programmes on BBC Radio 3 and 4 and written for The Strad and Classical Music magazines.

Leon grew up in South Africa, the son of the political activist Jonas Fred Bosch, and spent time in a police cell for organising protests while at school. He left the apartheid regime behind to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

He became a British citizen in 2000. In recent years he has returned to his roots, musically, forming the Ubuntu Ensemble with other UK-based South African musicians, and commissioning music for the South African Double Bass project, the first CD of which was

released in 2020. He also acts as a mentor for South African musicians worldwide.

Away from music, he runs marathons and ultra-marathons and holds a Master's degree in Intelligence and International Relations from Salford University.