For its 2019-2020 season, BOZAR is offering audiences variations on the theme of “RE”, a promise of Renaissance 2.0, and a transformation whereby often forgotten experiences are brought up to date and enriched by fresh influences and ideas. The new season of BOZAR MUSIC also brings this process to the fore. Whether it be the performance of Rediscovered works, Reinterpreted classics, ReInvented creations, Revised traditions or ReThought genres, the 154th season of BOZAR MUSIC is an invitation to think again, experience afresh and be moved by music. 2020 is also the year of an important anniversary: 250 years since the birth of Beethoven, whose work, even today, provides groundwork for permanent renaissance. The 2019-2020 season opens the first instalment of this celebration, which will span two seasons.

RENAISSANCE 2.0
Why are canons and traditional music still relevant today? At BOZAR, we shed light on the way we experience art today, the art in the present world that we help to fashion. In music, renaissance is part of our daily lives. Every piece, be it new or old, is reborn each time it is performed, enriched by the performer’s or the individual’s embodiment. A concert is an invitation to travel here and now, in a space-time setting in which music comes to life. Throughout this season, the performance of some of the greatest works of the repertoire will once again provide listeners with the opportunity to experience or re-experience something unique. Unique means that it can never be identically reproduced at one set moment, in a set location – an experience for which we cannot simply press “replay”.

For several years now, BOZAR MUSIC concerts invite audiences to listen beyond the barriers of genres and repertoires. Numerous festivals and events enable participants to discover to what extent the genres -- early, classical, contemporary, world music, jazz and electro -- but also the arts, resemble one another and how composers are open to new influences.

BEETHOVEN 2020
On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth, BOZAR MUSIC has dedicated 2020 to the composer. In addition to embodying an era and a particular universe, the iconic composer continues to fascinate generations throughout the world. The first part of this season’s celebration includes around twenty concerts that explore the immense range of his work thanks to performers such as the Quatuor Ebène, Jordi Savall and Frank Peter Zimmerman. Aside from classical formats, events will also see musical ensembles share the stage with performers, and music interwoven with cinema. Fidelio, Beethoven’s one and only opera, will thus be performed in two versions, with marionettes for the first and in a semi-
staged version for the second. Nico and the Navigators & the Kuss Quartett will present a dreamlike concert dedicated to Beethoven’s later works.

PROGRAMME

THEMES AND PORTRAITS
In keeping with tradition, BOZAR MUSIC has chosen to portray a few artists through several concerts, which will shed light on their art, their different facets and their musical personality. KRISTIAN BEZUIDENHOUT is one of the most prominent pianists and forte pianists of his generation. On the occasion of his portrayal at BOZAR, the South African musician delves into the great romantic repertoire in concerto, recital and chamber music. VOX LUMINIS is back for four concerts: Palestrina’s mass, J.S. Bach’s outstanding Mass in B Minor and Charpentier’s opera depicting the Descent of Orpheus into the Underworld, in the company of their new accomplices, the a nocte temporis ensemble and Reinoud Van Mechelen, and finally in a repertoire to which we are less accustomed to in Belgium: choral works by Benjamin Britten. BOZAR is also devoting a portrait to the mandolin player AVI AVITAL, who will penetrate the universes of Vivaldi, Bach and that of his famous album Between Worlds, from Bartók to Tsintsadze. ROMINA LISCHKA, named “Soloist of the year” by Klara in 20 19, brings out the best of her historical instrument in a varied programme: in duo with the forte pianist Maud Gratton, in a dialogue between Baroque English fantasia for violin and the Indian Dhrupad tradition, and finally with three different trios - the Hathor Consort, the Pluto-ensemble and Oltremontano - for a concert midway between Renaissance and Baroque. BRANFORD MARISALIS, grand master of the saxophone, will be back for a solo performance, as part of a quartet and accompanied by the Belgian National Orchestra. He will demonstrate his multiple talents as a musician, improviser, composer and eternal source of inspiration. In collaboration with La Monnaie and the Belgian National Orchestra, BOZAR is also paying tribute to the composer PASCAL DUSAPIN and his experimental and personal music with several concerts dedicated to his symphonic works and chamber music.

The contemporary period contains underexploited yet invaluable musical treasures; the series XX-XXI will enable fans of the genre to rediscover the best of contemporary creation with brand new works by major composers and specialised musical interpretations. Performers include Ictus, Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles, Iveta Apkalna and the Quatuor Danel.

GREAT CLASSICS
A great hall calls for great performers. The Henry Le Boeuf Hall, which will be celebrating its 90th anniversary in October, will once again be graced with some of the most prestigious talents, legendary conductors and phenomenal soloists. It is difficult to be exhaustive this year when faced with such a wealth of talent. When it comes to great orchestras, we are delighted to welcome the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Susanna Mäkilä (10.10) for the opening of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, conducted by Philippe Herreweghe (31.10), the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in the company of one of BOZAR MUSIC’s preferred pianists, Igor Levit (07.11), the Koninklijk Concertgebouworkest Amsterdam, which will grace our stage twice this season: on the first occasion with Isabelle Faust and Tabea Zimmerman, conducted by Ivan Fischer (14.12.) and on the second, with Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Håkan Hardenberger, conducted by Andris Nelsons (16.0 120). BOZAR will also play host to the NHK Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo conducted by Paavo Järvi (04.03.20.), the Mariinsky Orchestra and Valery Gergiev (12.05.20.), and Kirill Petrenko for one of his very first concerts at the head of the Berliner Philharmoniker (03.06.20.).

Aside from orchestras, we have also made room for more intimate recitals, masses and delicate voices. Among the regulars: Cécilia Bartoli (12.12), Philippe Jaroussky (05.03.20) and Martha Argerich
(0 9.0 1) and, of course, Grigory Sokolov (0 2.0 4.20). BOZAR is delighted to welcome the great tenor Jonas Kaufmann, the star this year with two concerts (26.0 1 & 0 2.0 6.20). Diva Angela Gheorghiu will be making her big comeback as well (15.11). Also on the programme, the Bach Collegium Japan, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, conducted by Masaaki Suzuki, in Bach’s St John Passion (210 3.20), the Balthasar Neumann Chor & Ensemble (0 4.0 2.20). Beethoven’s Fidelio in a partially staged version performed by the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, the Swedish Radio Choir (25.0 2.20) and the Coro e Orchestra Ghisleri conducted by Giulio Prandi in a homage to Vivaldi, Jommelli and Pergolesi (10.0 6.20). We must not forget Matthias Goerne, Benjamin Appl, Mitsuko Uchida with Jörg Widmann, Julia Fischer, Boris Giliburt, and plenty more!

Also on the programme, the most intimate STRING QUARTETS: established names such as the Kronos Quartet (13.11) and, star guest of the Ars Musica Festival, which will be celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Quatuor Arod, which went straight from being a Rising Star to an established name and which will be accompanied on this occasion by Alexandre Tharaud (18.12), the Quatuor Ebène in a Beethoven repertoire (25.0 120) and young talents such as the Rising Star Goldmund Quartett (30.11). The other RISING STARS presented this season are Pablo Fernandez Castro (18.11), Magnus Holmander (clarinet), Noa Wildschut (violin), João Barradas (accordion) and Simon Höfele (trumpet). BOZAR will of course continue its BOZAR NEXT GENERATION series, Sunday morning concerts which showcase young talent.

When it comes to BAROQUE MUSIC, let us mention, among others, two very different versions of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons. First, Karl Aage Rasmussen’s version revisited by the Concerto Copenhagen (19.12) and the poetically produced version of the Budrugana-Gagra Hand Shadow Theatre with Avital on the mandolin (0 7.12). Other renowned performers include the Muffatti (310 3.20), the extraordinary soprano Raquel Andueza and the La Galania ensemble (0 5.12), and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra & Ton Koopman.

JAZZ, WORLD & ELECTRO

The new JAZZ season at BOZAR is once again bringing audiences some of the biggest names in jazz. Aside from Branford Marsalis, mentioned above, the main stage will once again be brought to life with Big Band sounds by Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis (18 & 19.02). Another return visit we have really been looking forward to is the Brad Melhendau Trio. The pianist will perform alongside Larry Granadier on the double bass and Jeff Ballard on the drums (22.0 9). As we are on the subject of keyboards and legends, Chick Corea will be back, accompanied by two of his faithful acolytes, Christian McBride and Brian Blade (110 3.20). Another welcome return to BOZAR, which is sure to delight the audience, comes in the form of the incredible Cecile McLorin Salvant, accompanied on stage by the pianist Sullivan Fortner (11.11).

Fans of ELECTRONIC MUSIC will not be disappointed by the curious and eclectic programme we have put together: the NUITS SONORES (0 2-0 6.10) once again takes over the Centre for Fine Arts and the city with a series of outstanding (and explosive) concerts! Several BOZAR ELECTRONIC SERIES evenings and two BOZAR NIGHTS are also on the agenda for fans of the genre (10.11 & 30.0 4.20).

For WORLD MUSIC aficionados, SUFI NIGHT (26.10) and the BRUSELAS FLAMENCO FESTIVAL (0 4-0 8.0 3.20 20) are back. In addition, BOZAR is devoting a series of concerts to TANGO for the second consecutive season. From Finnish tango by Matti Salminen & Le Helsinki Philharmonic (12.10) and the group Astillero (B8.09), described as “the continuation of Piazzolla, absolutely virtuoso, crazy and fantastic”, to classical tango by Juan José Mosalini (10.0 120), a combination of Bach and tango by the
Trio Glorvigen (09.0 2.20), and the Fernandez Fierro Orquesta Típica (23.0 5.20), an orchestra with 12 musicians and a singer, known for their sharp sound and stunning performances.

FESTIVALS
Once again this year, the Centre for Fine Arts will be playing host to family-friendly, convivial, experimental and prestigious music festivals. In October, BOZAR MUSIC sets off to conquer the Great North with the new NORDIC FESTIVAL (10-20.10), a diversity of concerts ranging from medieval music to new electronic creations by way of world music, jazz and symphonic music. Ten days in the company of the likes of the Helsinki Philharmonic, Matti Salminen, Eric Ericson Chamber Choir, Trondheim Jazz Orchestra & Marius Neset.

To delight both young and older generations, the BIG BANG festival (03.11), will recreate its whimsical family atmosphere for a weekend of workshops and musical activities. During the season, other events are specifically geared to CHILDREN or families, such as Beethoven's Fidelio by the Salzburger Marionettentheater (20 & 21.09), Vivaldi's Four Seasons by the shadow theatre of Budrugana-Gagra (07.12), a concert by Trio Memento inspired by jules Verne's Around the World in 80 Days (01.12) and the Belgian National Orchestra's traditional Christmas Concert (20 & 21.12).

During the SINGING BRUSSELS CELEBRATION (06 & 07.06.20), which from 20.20 on will take place in early June, the entire Centre for Fine Arts will once again ring out to the sound of thousands of voices of amateur and professional choirs.

Among other annual events, the UFA FILM NIGHTS (26-28.09) will delight amateurs of cinema and live music, thanks to the involvement of the UFA, the CINEMATEK and Bertelsmann. A special mention goes to the Fritz Lang's film Woman in the Moon, screened as part of the 50th anniversary of the first man on the moon.

Finally, BOZAR is of course exploring the unfathomable resources of the king of instruments, with an ORGAN FESTIVAL (13-16.09). There will be a series of eclectic concerts, including ORGAN NIGHT FEVER, (14.09) an entire night's worth of instrument enjoyment.

The BACH HERITAGE festival (06-09.0 2.20), a traditional annual rendez-vous, will be paying homage to the Cantor with contemporary artists and composers from the world of theatre, tango and jazz: Free Bach 212, by the experimental theatre collective La Fura dels Baus and Divina Mysteria, Leonardo García Alarcón, Cappella Mediterranea and the Chœur de Chambre de Namur, and Andrea Buccarella for the Goldberg Variations on the harpsichord, the instrument for which it was originally written.

The annual KLARAFESTIVAL (15.0 3-29.03) will be welcomed again in the Centre for Fine Arts this spring. A few headliners: le Concert Spirituel & Hervé Niquet for la Missa si Deus pro nobis with eight (!) choirs, by the Baroque genius Orazio Benevolò (16.0 3.20), the Philharmonia Orchestra & Esa-Pekka Salonen (25.0 3.20), and the prestigious Ensemble intercontemporain which will perform From within, a composition by Nikodijević with a LED installation by Robert Henke.

PARTNERS
Collaboration with partners, new or historical, remains dear to BOZAR. The Belgian National Orchestra, la Monnaie and BOZAR are joining forces for the fourth consecutive year for UNITED MUSIC OF BRUSSELS (07.09), and will be putting on, as a prelude to the start of the new musical season, an artistic encounter open to a wide audience in familiar and unlikely locations throughout the city. The collaboration between BOZAR and the BELGIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA, orchestra in permanent residence, is moreover something of a symbiosis. In keeping with tradition, the Great Hall will play host to the ‘essentials’, but also the orchestra's Friday and Sunday concerts. Throughout the season, BOZAR
also welcomes concerts specifically dedicated to Tchaikovsky and Strauss and performed by the LA MONNAIE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

Other key partners: some BOZAR MUSIC concerts will take place outside the Centre for Fine Arts. The location’s acoustics and ambiance particularly enhance certain types of music. This year, BOZAR will organise concerts in the Palace of the Academies, the Protestant Chapel, the Church of Our Lady of the Chapel – for two concerts as part of the Bruegel year, in the very place where the musician is buried –, the Church of Saint John the Baptist at the Béguinage and the Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudula. BOZAR will also take up residence in the Royal Conservatory of Brussels for a number of concerts and artistic performances as a way to cherish the distinguished location and its exceptional acoustics, until its 2023 Renaissance.

"Renaissance... We are facing major transformations. BOZAR, House of Change, has the ambition to be at the heart of this metropolis and this changing world. We ourselves become a place of and for change. Not only a space dedicated to beauty and fine arts, but also to the Art of Change. Artists like Beethoven have a huge impact. He has become an almost mythical figure, a universal symbol of the power of inspiration and the unifying capacity of music. Art brings people together, and at the same time, art shows that anyone can make a difference. "Muss es sein? Es muss sein!"

Paul Dujardin, CEO BOZAR

The brochure is available on our website www.bozar.be or can be send by post.

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