

09 : 30 - 11 : 00

VIOLA ORCHESTRA

IVS / IVC Project

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

World

Program

A large viola orchestra bringing together amateur and professional musicians from around the world. This collective project embodies the spirit of sharing and togetherness that lies at the heart of the congress, where everyone can take part in the viola's unique sound.



11 : 00 - 12 : 00

FORGOTTEN ROMANTIC REPERTOIRE

Project 65

RECITAL

USA

The Great Belgian Viola Concerto of 1915

Bryan Tyler, viola
N/N, piano

Joseph Jongen — Suite for Viola and Orchestra (1915)
I. Poème élégiaque
II. Finale

After winning Belgium's Prix de Rome in 1897, Belgian composer Joseph Jongen studied briefly with Strauss before fleeing to London at the start of World War I. There he formed the Belgian quartet with Lionel Tertis. One of Jongen's first compositions from this period was the Suite for Viola and Orchestra, Op. 48. Though originally dedicated to Tertis, when Tertis declined the premiere, Maurice Vieux (one of the fathers of the French Viola School) stepped in. Set in two movements, the suite opens with a poignant elegy containing pentatonic writing, a falling 5th sigh motif, and lush harmonies reminiscent of the opening of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6. The first movement culminates in soaring passages for the viola and angelic arpeggiated accompaniment before fading to darkness. The charming and spritely second movement is filled with bravura, vibrant colors, grand orchestration, and a lively coda. The Suite, Op. 48 stands as a significant contribution to the viola concerto repertoire of the late romantic period. Jongen's prolific viola writing reveals a lyrical style gleaming with rich harmonies and an understanding of character writing for the viola that is deserving of a place in the standard repertoire.

Project 128

LECTURE RECITAL

France

Memory and Invention: Trowell's Sonata dedicated to Tertis (& the music of Nigel Keay)

Nigel Keay, viola
Isabelle Dutel, piano
François Veilhan, flute
Frédérique Moine, clarinet

Arnold Trowell — Sonata for viola, Op. 21 (ca. 1920)
Nigel Keay — Adagietto Antique, trio for clarinet, viola, and piano (2009)
Nigel Keay — Labyrinthe, duo for flute and viola (2018)

The Viola Sonata Op. 21 by Arnold Trowell, composed around 1920 and dedicated to his friend Lionel Tertis, remained unpublished until 2023. A post-Romantic work in three movements, it illustrates the growing importance of the viola in chamber music at the turn of the 20th century. Recently revived, the sonata reveals an expressive, lyrical voice that deserves to be heard on stage again. Nigel Keay, as composer and viola player, will present his Duo for flute and viola, an unexpectedly rare combination despite its remarkable richness. The two instruments explore dialogue through contrast or timbral fusion, creating a unique sound world. This work contributes to expanding the repertoire, as well as adding to Keay's own series of duos for viola with another instrument. The ensemble Traces d'Aujourd'hui also performs Keay's Trio for clarinet, viola, and piano, a formation with works by Mozart, Schumann, Bruch, Kurtág, and Jean-Claude Wolff. Its balance and warmth make it an ideal setting for refined chamber writing, where colors blend and enrich one another. From Trowell to today's creations, this project traces a singular journey that places the viola at the heart of a dialogue between memory and invention.