

▶▶ 11th International Pharos Chamber Music Festival  
May 24-28: The Royal Manor House, Kouklia.  
May 29: The Shoe Factory, Nicosia.  
Start at 8.30pm. www.pharosartsfoundation.org

## Royal treat for chamber music fans



**T**he time is finally here when the cultural agenda fills with plenty of appealing events as the summer slowly sets in and dozens of festivals kick off. The coming weeks are of particular interest to classical music lovers who may well be heading to the shores of Paphos for a real acoustic treat as the Pharos Chamber Music Festival lures in the crowds.

Growing steadily over the years, the occasion is now considered one of the most renowned festivals of its kind in the eastern Mediterranean region. Having established itself as the highlight of the Pharos Arts Foundation's Concert and Recital series, the festival has made chamber music more accessible to local crowds with performances of the highest standard, stimulating programmes and quite affordable tickets. With numbers speaking for themselves, the festival attracts over 2,000 visitors each year and also maintains a strong tradition of community service, with educational concerts organised for primary school students of the surrounding areas.

As for the specific agenda this year, five exciting concerts are coming up at the magnificent Royal Manor House in Kouklia/Palaipaphos. The event will feature some of the most celebrated musicians in the world including the concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic, Daishin Kashimoto, and the renowned flutist, Emmanuel Pahud.

The annual Pharos Chamber Music Festival will not disappoint this year either says ZOE CHRISTODOULIDES

You can look forward to plenty of fine tunes including Mozart's Flute Quartet in D major, Arensky's String Quartet No. 2, and the string trio arrangement of Bach's Goldberg Variations. As for the venue itself, the Royal Manor House in Kouklia is one of the finest surviving monuments of Frankish architecture on the island and an unparalleled venue for intimate chamber music performances. The building also houses an archaeological museum, which records the rich history of human activity in the region from about 2800 BC to the present day.

Part of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation's Aphrodite's Cultural Route, the Royal Manor House is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. You might like to know that the area known as Palaipaphos (or Old Paphos) was a city-kingdom of Cyprus and one of the most celebrated pilgrimage centres of the ancient Greek world. It was also the site of a famous sanctuary of Aphrodite, the oldest remains of which date back to the 12th century BC.

But all the fun doesn't end in Pa-

High quality line-up: artists will include Amihai Grosz (*below*) and Alexander Chaushian (*right*)

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phos with the final concert of the festival taking place at The Shoe Factory in Nicosia. The grand finale will see Philippe Cassard in the limelight performing works by Liszt, Schubert and Debussy. The Shoe Factory is situated in the old part of Nicosia near the buffer zone with the Pharos Arts Foundation trying to revitalise this beautiful and historic section of the capital by attracting a wide and diversified younger audience.

All concerts are characterised by a feeling of intimacy and music is performed in an exceptionally inspiring setting: a modern venue decorated with contemporary art by plenty of local artists. For the full schedule of events, as well as specific concert times, just check out the website of the Pharos Foundation listed above.

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