

Pharos goes French

The Pharos Trust has altered its name to become the Pharos Arts Foundation and will open their 2009 concert series on January 30 with a song recital by the French soprano Veronique Gens accompanied by pianist Jeff Cohen.

French-born Veronique Gens has spent much of her career performing and recording baroque music but is also considered to be one of the finest Mozart singers as well as being highly acclaimed for her song interpretations of Berlioz, Debussy and Faure amongst others.

At the end of 2008, she made a dramatic turn in her career and sang her first Eva in Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* in Barcelona.

Gens studied at the Conservatoire de Paris making her debut in 1986 with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants. Following the success of her role of Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* under Claudio Abbado, she has appeared with the most prestigious orchestras in the world's greatest auditoriums.

In 1999, she was selected by the French *Victoires de la Musique* as "Singer of the Year" and in 2006, was nominated "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres".

Gens will be accompanied by Jeffrey

Cohen, who studied at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore before moving to Paris to study piano and chamber music at the Conservatoire National de Paris.

Cohen has collaborated with numerous singers and instrumentalists as pianist and assisted Myung-Whung Chung for the opening season of the Paris Bastille Opera production of Verdi's *Otello*. He has also composed the music for several feature films, plays and dance pieces and wrote and hosted a show for French television which introduced music to children. Cohen is currently Professor of French Melodie and Lied at the conservatoire National and in June 2006, was awarded the "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" by the French government

The programme will comprise songs by Gounod, Massenet, Chausson, Debussy, Faure and Hahn. Tickets, at €20, can be obtained at the door or from the Moufflon and Soloneion bookshops.

French song and melodies
Concert with Veronique Gens (soprano) and Jeff Cohen (piano). January 30. PASYDY amphitheatre, 3 Demosthenis Severis Avenue, Nicosia. 8.30pm. Tel: 22-662278 / 22-459338/39

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