

PHAROS
REVIEW
2025

The Pharos Arts Foundation is a Cyprus-based, non-profit cultural and educational organisation dedicated to the promotion of a wide range of activities in the fields of the humanities and the arts. The Foundation presents cultural and educational programmes that are characterised by a strong commitment to artistic excellence and the creative process. Inaugurated in 1998, Pharos was the first active exponent of classical / chamber music in Cyprus, and it has been a remarkable pioneer in shaping the country's cultural infrastructure: It was the Foundation that initiated in Cyprus the first ever chamber music festival, the first ever contemporary music festival, the first music-education programme, as well as the first truly contemporary art-space.

MUSIC: Through its internationally acclaimed **Concert and Recital Series**, which takes place throughout the year, the Pharos Arts Foundation has so far organised hundreds of concerts by some of the world's most celebrated soloists, chamber music ensembles and chamber orchestras. Since 2001, the Pharos Arts Foundation has been organising the annual **International Pharos Chamber Music Festival**, which has established itself as the most important annual music event in Cyprus and has gained an international reputation for its quality concerts and magnificent settings. In 2009, the Foundation introduced the annual **International Pharos Contemporary Music Festival**, the mission of which is to propagate the music of 20th and 21st centuries and to present contemporary works and newly-commissioned compositions. The Festival has so far presented over 100 world premieres and dozens of Cyprus premieres by the world's most renowned contemporary music ensembles and soloists.

EDUCATION: The Pharos Arts Foundation's **Education Programme** presents workshops, master-classes, lectures and educational concerts for the benefit of students of state and private schools from different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds, promoting music as a non-verbal expression vehicle which transcends the boundaries of language. Over 85.000 students from all over Cyprus have been benefited from the Programme in the last thirteen years, at absolutely no cost to them or to the state. Through the Foundation's **Residency Programme**, artists, writers, musicians, scholars and composers are invited to visit Cyprus and create new work. The **Lecture Series** serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas by influential thinkers on issues of global importance.

VISUAL ARTS: The Pharos Arts Foundation's **Visual Arts Programme** features contemporary art exhibitions by distinguished international artists working in all ranges of media; the **Pharos Centre for Contemporary Art** hosts major contemporary art exhibitions, acting as a space where artists can create and present their work. Exhibition catalogues on the hosted artists, as well as other monographs and books on contemporary art and photography are published by **Pharos Publishers**.

The Pharos Arts Foundation is directly dependent on sponsorship and other contributions for the implementation of its activities. Cyprus Registered Charitable Trust S.C. 91. Contributions are fully tax deductible under Cyprus law, and can be deducted in their entirety from the supporter's annual income tax.

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A venue in the heart of the city



The Shoe Factory
304 Ermou St., Nicosia

FOREWORD

by the President of the Pharos Arts Foundation

As another year draws to a close, it offers an opportunity not so much to catalogue achievements, but to reflect on the continuity of purpose that has guided the Pharos Arts Foundation since its inception. Year after year, the Foundation's work is shaped by a simple but demanding conviction: that artistic excellence, when pursued with seriousness and integrity, has lasting value for individuals and for society alike.

Throughout the year, Pharos has continued to present artists and ensembles of the highest calibre, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to classical music and the wider arts. These encounters between artists and audiences, whether in intimate or monumental settings, are never conceived as spectacles, but as shared experiences that require attention, openness, and time. It is precisely this quality of encounter that gives our work its meaning and relevance.

Equally central to our mission remains education. Offering young people the chance to come into direct contact with artists – to observe discipline, dedication, and creative responsibility at close range – is one of the most important aspects of our activity. Such encounters do not merely inspire. They provide a living example of what sustained effort and artistic integrity can achieve, leaving impressions that often endure far beyond the moment itself.

The Pharos Arts Foundation continues to operate with a deep sense of responsibility towards the cultural life of Cyprus, mindful of the trust placed in us by our audience, our collaborators, and those who support our work. It is this collective commitment that allows the Foundation to move forward with confidence, remaining faithful to its principles while continuing to evolve.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all those who contribute to this shared endeavour: the artists who place their trust in us, the Artistic Director of the Foundation, Yvonne Georgiadou, our dedicated team and volunteers, our audience, and our sponsors, whose support makes our work possible. Together, we ensure that the arts remain a vital, living presence – not as an abstraction, but as a meaningful part of our common cultural life.

Garo Keheyán

Founder & President

Pharos Arts Foundation

Wednesday 22 January
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

QUATUOR DANIEL

Having been at the forefront of the international classical music scene for decades, with bold, expressive, and technically impeccable performances, the Quatuor Daniel has appeared on all major concert stages worldwide, from the Philharmonie de Paris to Leipzig's Gewandhaus, from the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg to London's Wigmore Hall, where the Quartet is artist-in-residence. Over the past 30 years, Quatuor Daniel's fresh vision of the traditional quartet repertoire has earned them wide acclaim from audiences and critics alike. They are also renowned for their ground-breaking, multi-award-winning discography, particularly for their deeply personal interpretations of the string quartet cycles of Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Shostakovich, and Weinberg.

The Pharos Arts Foundation opened its 2025 season with this celebrated French string quartet, which made its Cyprus debut to a full house. Performing Debussy's devilishly demanding String Quartet, Shostakovich's profound No.14, and Beethoven's monumental No.15, the ensemble delivered a performance of remarkable intensity, depth, and technical brilliance, reaffirming Quatuor Daniel's reputation as one of the finest ensembles in the world today.

The concert was organised in collaboration with the Institut français de Chypre.



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Wednesday 19 February
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

RECITAL

GIOVANNI BERTOLAZZI piano

Having established himself as one of the most compelling pianists of his generation, Giovanni Bertolazzi has earned worldwide acclaim for his exceptional artistry and technical skill. A laureate of over 40 prestigious international piano competitions, including the Franz Liszt International Piano Competition in Budapest, where he secured the Second Prize and five special prizes in 2021, Bertolazzi is widely celebrated for his commanding performances and profound interpretations. His playing has been described as creating “a pianistic drama of overwhelming power and poetry.” He has been a guest of prestigious series and festivals such as the Verbier Festival, in where he was awarded the Tabor Foundation Award, Lorin Maazel’s Castleton Festival in Virginia (USA), and the LacMus Festival in Milan, which awarded him the Donna Guglielmina Durini Litta International Piano Award.

Pharos presented this remarkable pianist in his Cyprus debut recital in a programme of great depth and technical complexity, consisting of works by Bach/Busoni, Beethoven, Verdi, and Liszt. Bertolazzi astounded the audience with his virtuosity, and his remarkable performance earned him three encores.

The concert was organised in collaboration with the Keyboard Charitable Trust.



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Friday 28 February
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

AMATIS TRIO

The Amatis Trio, one of the leading piano trios of its generation, is celebrated for its electrifying synergy, insight, and distinct communication on stage. With performances at major venues such as the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and the Konzerthaus Vienna, and appearances in the world's leading festivals including the BBC Proms and the Verbier Festival, the Amatis Trio has enthralled audiences across over 40 countries and five continents, and has been praised for its "stunning, stormy, and masterful" performances. Recognised early on as BBC New Generation Artists and ECHO Rising Stars, the Amatis Trio has been awarded prestigious music prizes, including the Kersjesprijs of the Netherlands and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship award.

For their Cyprus debut, the Amatis Trio performed a magnificent programme featuring Schubert's first piano trio, a work of profound intensity and symphonic grandeur; Mendelssohn's second piano trio, a highly virtuosic masterpiece rarely performed today; and the evocative work *Moorlands* by Swedish composer Andrea Tarrodi, which was written especially for the Amatis Trio.

The concert was supported by the Embassy of Austria in Cyprus.



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Friday 7 March
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

RECITAL

SERGEY BELYAVSKY piano

Described as demonstrating “an extraordinary expressive intelligence,” pianist Sergey Belyavsky is renowned for his vast and diverse repertoire, and he has been called “one of the best pianists in the world today.” Sergey has won prizes in more than thirty international piano competitions – more recently, the Second Prize and the Audience Prize at the 76th Concours de Genève, and the First Prize at the Malaga International Piano Competition in Spain. He has performed in such important venues as Carnegie Hall, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Salle Gaveau in Paris, and the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, and has appeared as a soloist with such internationally acclaimed orchestras as the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra.

A rare virtuoso, Sergey Belyavsky is a flawless technician who masterfully commands the full spectrum of tones, dynamics and nuances. For his Cyprus debut, he performed an exceptionally insightful recital programme, with works by various composers – spanning from C.P.E. Bach through Schumann and Liszt to Rachmaninov and Scriabin – all of which were based on the same theme: *La Folia*, a subject that has preoccupied composers for over three and a half centuries.

The concert was organised in collaboration with the Malaga International Piano Competition.



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Friday 21 March
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

THE LONDON HANDEL PLAYERS

One of the most remarkable Baroque ensembles of our time, the London Handel Players are renowned for their expressive depth and consummate musicianship. Ever since making their debut in 2000 at St George's Hanover Square, as part of the London Handel Festival, they have thrilled audiences across the world with their unsurpassed performances and recordings. Praised for their "consummate skill and musicianship", the London Handel Players appear regularly at leading venues and major festivals such as Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Göttingen and Halle Handel Festivals, performing Baroque chamber music and concertos and collaborating with the world's leading singers.

The Pharos Arts Foundation presented this sensational period ensemble in Cyprus for the first time, in a programme exploring how seminal Baroque composers drew inspiration from exotic cultures and distant lands. The London Handel Players presented an ingenious programme in which composers such as Lully, Rameau, Telemann, Vivaldi, Corelli, Scarlatti, and Purcell drew on elements from distant cultures – the Ottoman pageantry, Persian sophistication, and Amerindian rhythms in French ballet and opera, the Polish bagpipes and polonaise dances, the Spanish folly and Indian vibrancy in Italian concertos, and the rustic energy of the British Isles.



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Wednesday 2 April
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

QUATUOR MAGENTA

DAVID HAROUTUNIAN violin

THÉO FOUCHENNERET piano

Violinist David Haroutunian has appeared as a soloist in major venues worldwide, including the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Carnegie Hall, and Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, with renowned orchestras such as the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia and the Strasbourg Philharmonic.

Pianist Théo Fouchenneret was the First Prize winner of the 2018 Geneva International Piano Competition, and has appeared in the most prestigious concert venues, including the Philharmonie de Paris, Salle Cortot, Salle Gaveau, and Sala Verdi in Milan.

The multi-winning all-female Quatuor Magenta is ensemble-in-residence at ProQuartet – Centre Européen de Musique de Chambre, and it has been praised by Diapason for its “remarkable balance, flexibility and spontaneity”.

Marking their Cyprus debut, the six artists joined forces with refined musicianship and remarkable unity for a deeply personal exploration of seminal Romantic works – Chausson’s Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet, Schumann’s lyrical Op.41 String Quartet in A minor, and Franck’s well-known Sonata for Violin and Piano.

The concert was organised in collaboration with the Institut français de Chypre, and it benefited from the generous support of Société Générale Bank Cyprus.



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Thursday 10 April
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

RECITAL

ANNA AVRAMIDOU piano

Recognised for her extraordinary talent and musical maturity, the 17-year-old Cypriot pianist Anna Avramidou has already made a remarkable impression on the international stage. Winner of the 6th International Franz Liszt Piano Competition for Young Pianists in Weimar – where she claimed First Prize in her category, as well as the Grand Prix and multiple special awards – Anna has performed as a soloist with the Thessaloniki State Orchestra, the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, and the Vienna Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Currently a student at the prestigious Purcell School for Young Musicians, she has given numerous recitals across Europe, including the Leeds International Concert Season, the Brunnenhof Residenz in Munich, and the Barletta Piano Festival in Italy.

Anna made her recital debut as part of the Pharos' Cyprus Artists Series, in front of a full house of enthusiastic listeners. She delivered a demanding and wide-ranging programme with remarkable precision, expressive depth, and stylistic sensitivity. From her immaculate control of Bach's Prelude and Fugue, to the command she brought to Beethoven's *Appassionata*, her utmost virtuosity in Debussy's *Feux d'Artifice*, and her technical and expressive maturity in Chopin's Second Sonata, she showed an exceptional ability to move across styles with clarity and confidence.

The concert was supported by Alpha Bank Cyprus.



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Friday 25 April
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

RECITAL

ANTOINE MORINIÈRE guitar

Renowned for his expressive musicianship and distinctive virtuosity, Antoine Morinière is a guitarist in high demand, performing worldwide as a soloist and chamber musician. Having appeared in prestigious venues such as the Philharmonie de Paris, Philharmonie de Bruges, Wigmore Hall in London, and Casa da Música in Portugal, he has also been featured in major festivals including Bachfest Leipzig, the Paris International Guitar Festival, and the London Guitar Festival.

Morinière is the winner of the First Prize at the International Sevilla Guitar Competition, as well as numerous other competitions, including the Wien Guitar Competition and the Santa Cecilia International Competition, and he has established himself as a leading figure in the classical guitar world. He returned to The Shoe Factory to open the 19th Guitar Festival EGTA, organised in collaboration with the Pharos Arts Foundation, with a memorable recital brimming with Spanish evocativeness and poetic lyricism in works by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Isaac Albéniz, Joaquín Turina, and Carlo Domeniconi.



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Saturday 26 April
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

RECITAL

MOLINA GUITAR DUO

Partners in life and in art, guitarists Isabella Selder and Santiago Molina Gimbernat met while studying at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg. United by their passion for chamber music and their commitment to exploring projects beyond the conventional repertoire, they founded the Molina Guitar Duo in 2017. Their diverse programmes are distinguished by original arrangements and an interdisciplinary fusion of literature and music. Today, the Molina Guitar Duo is recognised as one of the most promising ensembles on the guitar scene, and they have been praised by the music critics for their “passionate, narrative music-making and amazing effectiveness in ensemble playing.”

The Molina Guitar Duo made its Cyprus debut as part of the 19th Guitar Festival EGTA, organised in collaboration with Pharos, in a programme showcasing the expressive and virtuosic possibilities of the guitar duo, featuring a diverse selection of works that highlight the guitar’s versatility, blending tradition with innovation in a compelling musical dialogue.



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Friday 2 May
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

QUARTETTO EOS

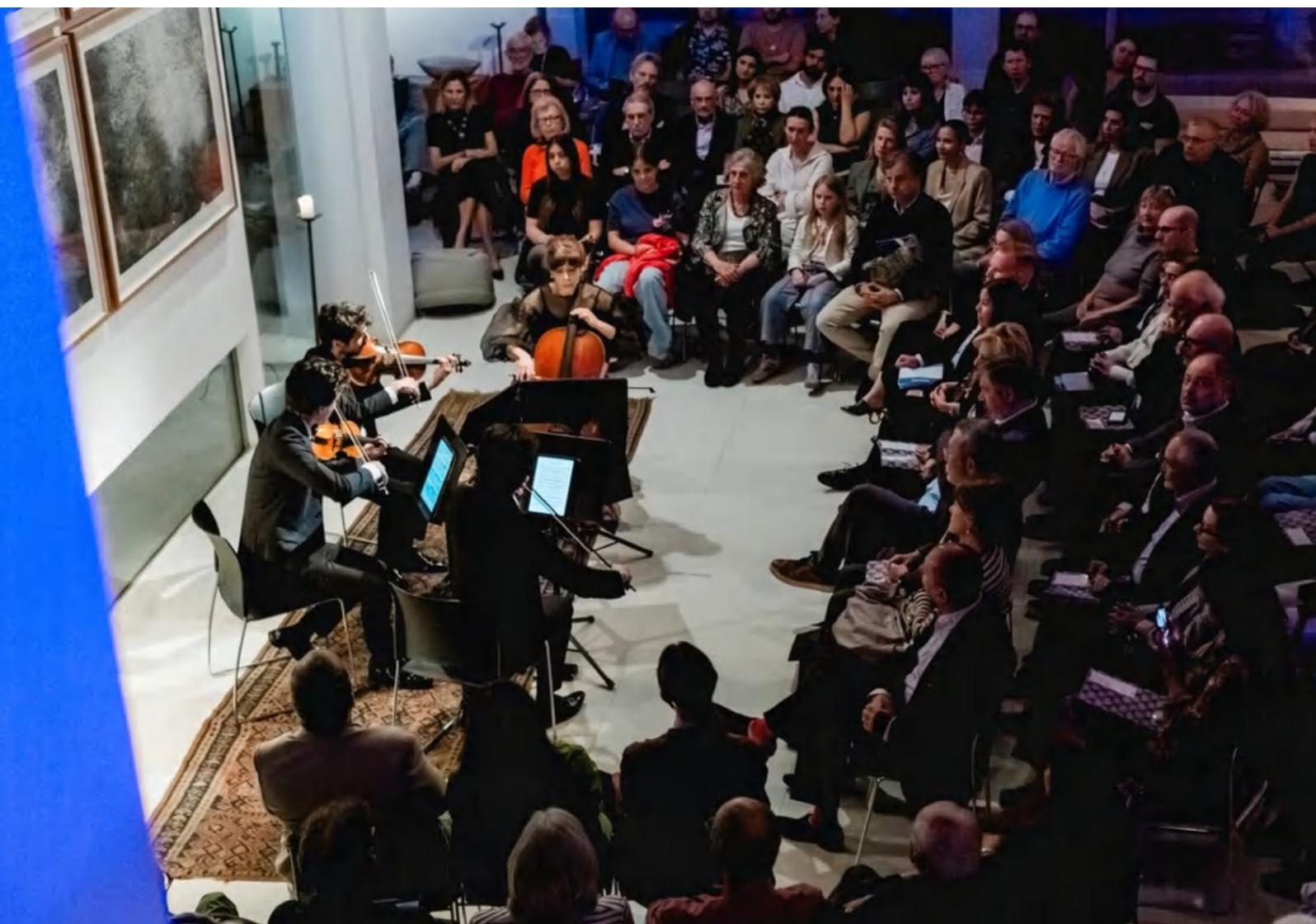
Formed in 2016 at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome, Quartetto Eos quickly distinguished itself by the freshness and depth of its interpretations, earning the prestigious Farulli Prize from the Italian Music Critics as part of the Franco Abbiati Prize in 2018. Since then, it has won top prizes at renowned competitions, including the Orpheus Chamber Music Competition in Winterthur, the International Chamber Music Competition Anton Rubinstein in Düsseldorf, and the International String Quartet Competition Paolo Borciani in Reggio Emilia. The Quartet has already performed in some of Europe's most prestigious venues, including the Philharmonie de Paris, Teatro La Fenice in Venice, and Flagey in Brussels, while its ever-growing discography has affirmed its position among the finest chamber ensembles of its generation.

Quartetto Eos made its Cyprus debut in a spectacular programme which elicited an intense and palpable response from the audience: Haydn's Op.20, No.5; Mendelssohn's forcefully impassioned Op.80, No.6; and one of the pillars of the chamber music repertoire, Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* quartet.

The concert was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy.



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24 May – 1 June

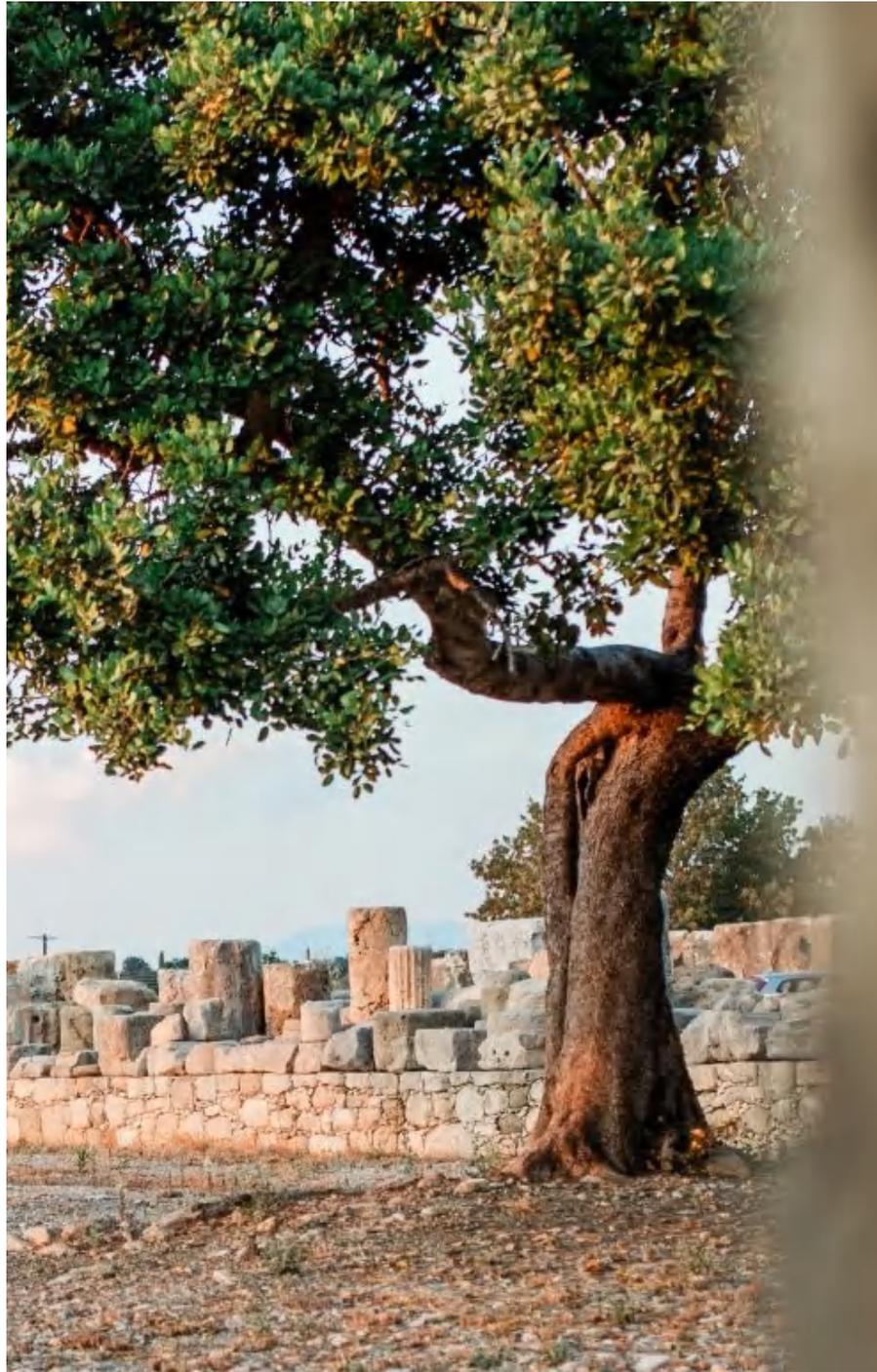
Royal Manor House, Kouklia
The Olive Grove, Delikipos

24th INTERNATIONAL PHAROS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

The International Pharos Chamber Music Festival has firmly established itself as a beacon of artistic excellence and cultural significance, in Europe and beyond. Recognised internationally as one of the most important annual classical music events, the Festival continues to enrich the cultural landscape of Cyprus with its uncompromising dedication to quality and innovation. Over its remarkable history, spanning more than two decades, the Pharos Festival has hosted some of the most legendary soloists and music ensembles in the world, bringing chamber music to the forefront of cultural life in Cyprus, while elevating the island's standing on the global artistic stage.

Year after year, the Festival presents a richly diverse programme of chamber music, offering audiences a profound and ever-evolving musical journey. At the same time, it remains deeply rooted in its mission to serve the community, opening the world of chamber music to a broader audience and offering transformative educational opportunities to students across the island.

Held annually in the Royal Manor House of Kouklia – a UNESCO World Heritage site – the Festival adapts this historic venue into a space where tradition and artistic expression converge. The intimacy of chamber music, performed by the best musicians in the world, blending seamlessly with the enchanted atmosphere of the surroundings, make the International Pharos Chamber Music Festival a cornerstone of the international classical music calendar and a source of inspiration for all who attend.



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Piano: NIKITA MNDYANTS, ENRICO PACE, ASHLEY WASS

Violin: DAISHIN KASHIMOTO, KRISTINE BALANAS, BORIS BROVTSYN, SVETLIN ROUSSEV, FABIANA D'AURIA

Viola: TIMOTHY RIDOUT, DIEMUT POPPEN, DAVID ABRAHAMYAN, SAMUEL BARSEGYAN **Cello:** DANJULO ISHIZAKA, JULIAN STECKEL, ALEXANDER CHAUSHIAN

Double-bass: NIEK DE GROOT **Clarinet:** PAUL MEYER

Horn: RADOVAN VLATKOVIC **Marimba:** RIA IDETA

CYPRUS YOUTH SYMPHONY **ORCHESTRA**

Conductor: YIORGOS KOUNTOURIS



The 24th International Pharos Chamber Music Festival comprised five chamber concerts performed by some of the world's leading virtuosos, and culminated at the Pharos Arts Foundation's open-air venue, the idyllic The Olive Grove, which featured some of the Festival's soloists alongside the talented Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra. As always, the Festival maintains a core of musicians who return every year, while also welcoming guest soloists who visit our island for the very first time, infusing each concert with a fresh and unique perspective.







Among the guest artists making their Festival debut was violinist Kristine Balanas, a prize winner at the ARD Music Competition, praised for her “savage, bold, dramatic playing” and for the striking individuality of her presence on stage. The Festival also welcomed the return of Daishin Kashimoto, first concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic, and the acclaimed violin virtuoso Svetlin Roussev, First Prize winner of the Sendai International Music Competition in 2001. Also making their Cyprus debut were two distinguished German cellists, both First Prize winners of the ARD Music Competition and recipients of the Echo Klassik Award: Danjulo Ishizaka, whose performances have been hailed as “an exceptional feat of virtuosity, stamina and memory”, and Julian Steckel, a leading virtuoso praised for his “masterful and authentic” playing, described as “effortless and unhindered by technical boundaries”. They were joined by double-bassist Niek de Groot, widely recognised for his close collaboration with composers such as Kurtág, Stockhausen, and Gubaidulina.









The Festival also featured for the first time the pianist Nikita Mndoyants, described as an “excellent pianist as well as a wise and thoughtful musician”. A First Prize winner of the Cleveland International Piano Competition and the Paderewski International Piano Competition, he has also achieved distinction as a composer, having received First Prizes at the Myaskovsky International Competition for Composers and the Prokofiev International Competition for Composers. He was joined by the Italian pianist Enrico Pace, who, after winning the prestigious International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Utrecht in 1989, went on to establish an international career as one of the most versatile and highly regarded soloists and chamber musicians of his generation, and whose playing has been praised as “lithe, characterful, and sensitive”. The return of the wonderful British pianist Ashley Wass was another highlight of the Festival. One of the leading performers of his generation and a regular presence at the Pharos Festival, he has been described as an “endlessly fascinating artist” and as “possessing the enviable gift to turn almost anything he plays into pure gold”.





Following her highly successful Cyprus debut two years earlier, the Festival welcomed the return of marimbist Ria Ideta, whose mastery of the instrument continues to attract international attention. The Festival also marked the return of clarinetist Paul Meyer, widely recognised as one of the leading figures of his instrument, and of horn player Radovan Vlatkovic, whose career has played a decisive role in expanding the repertoire and profile of the French horn. Last but not least, the Festival welcomed the soloists who form the core and backbone of the event each year: the Artistic Director of the Festival, cellist Alexander Chaushian; violinists Boris Brovtsyn and Fabiana D'Auria; and violists Diemut Poppen, David Abrahamyan, and Samuel Barsegyan.





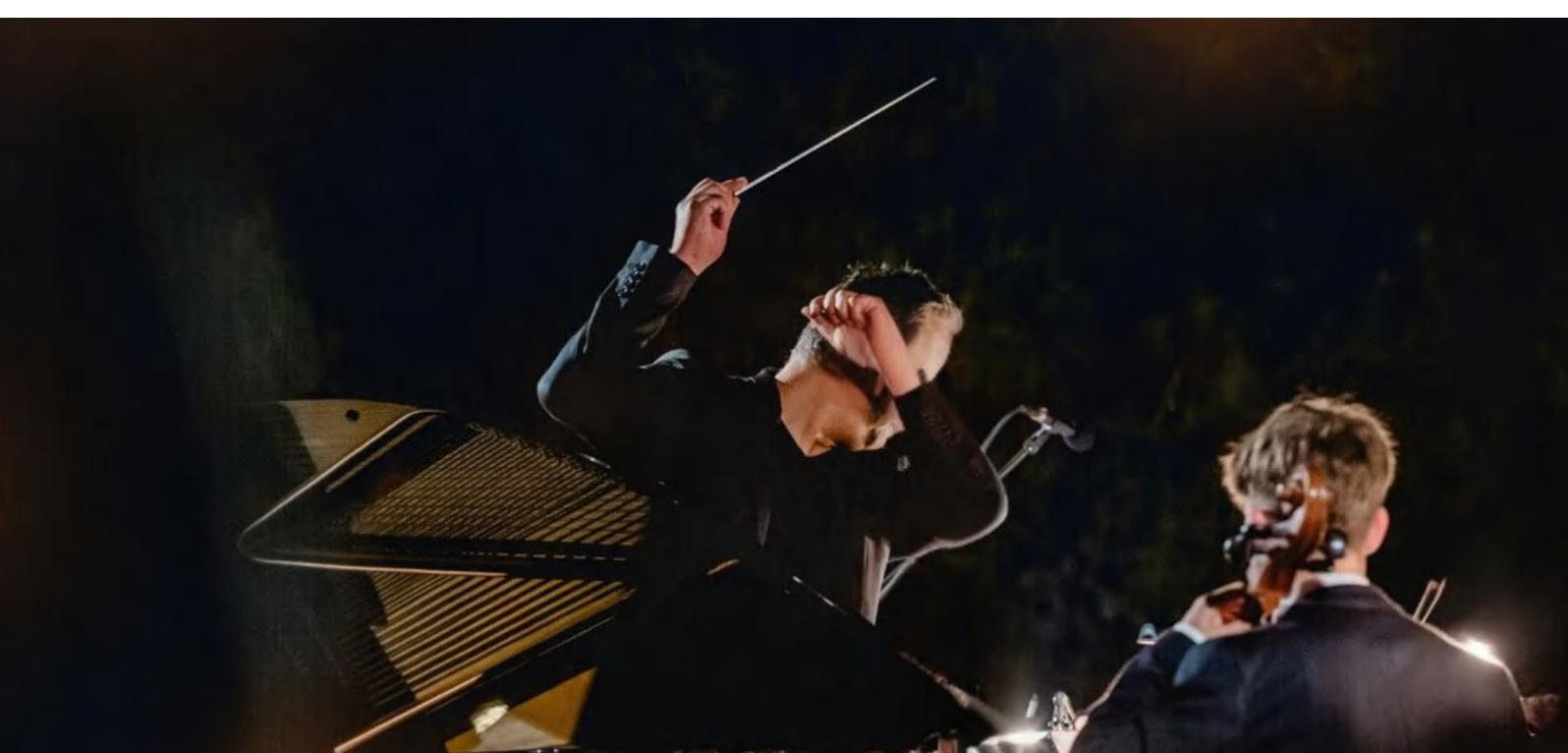




The Festival concluded with an open-air evening at the Pharos Arts Foundation's Olive Grove in Delikipos, set among centuries-old olive trees and pine forest, where the natural landscape and carefully lit surroundings formed the setting for the final concert. Festival soloists joined the Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Yiorgos Kountouris, bringing a spectacular and fitting end to an equally remarkable Festival.





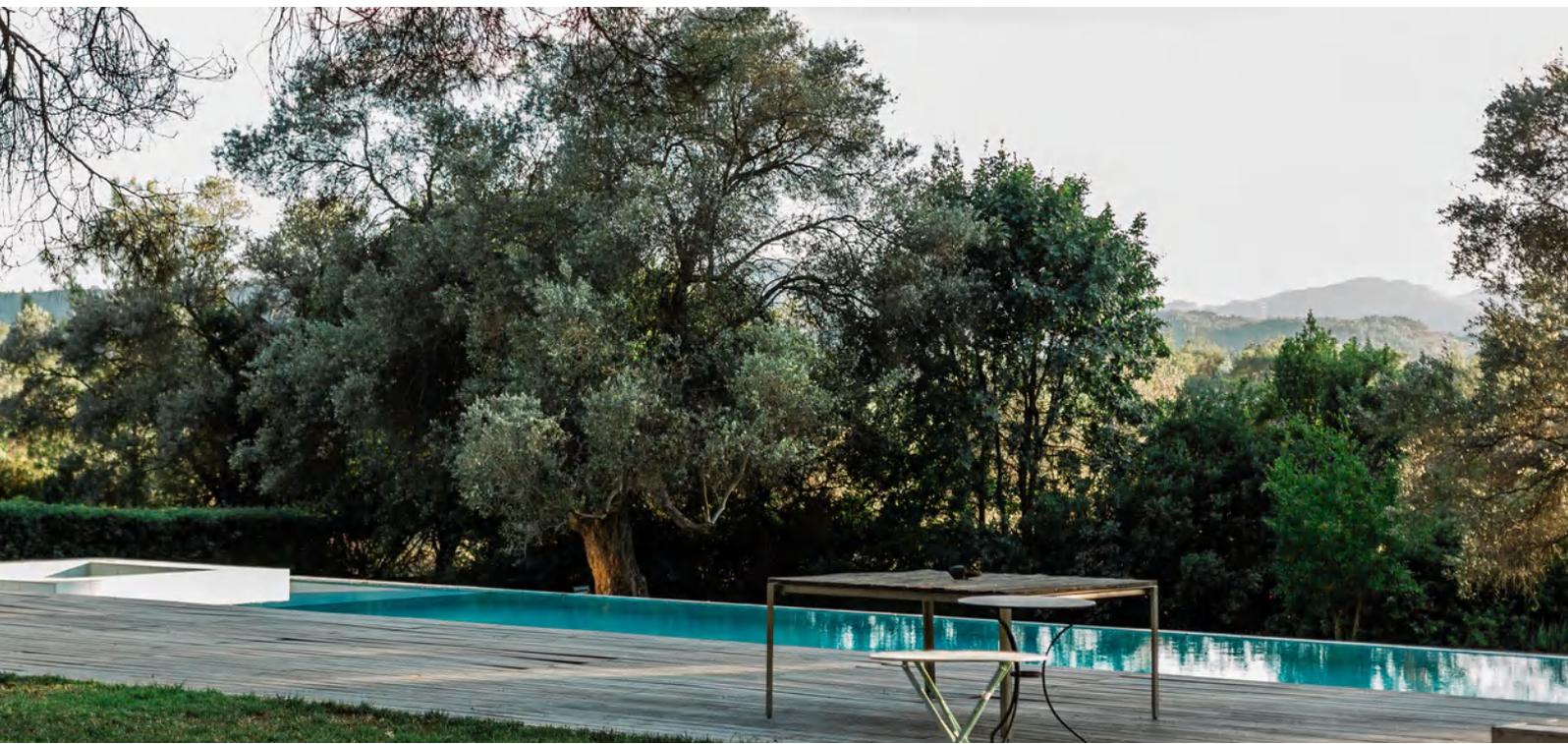












Saturday 27 September
Strovolos Theatre, Nicosia

CONCERT

MAXIM VENGEROV violin OXFORD PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA MARIOS PAPADOPOULOS conductor

A historic milestone in Cyprus' musical life was reached with the appearance of Maxim Vengerov alongside the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Marios Papadopoulos.

Universally recognised as one of the great musicians of our time, and often described as the finest living violinist, Vengerov has forged an extraordinary international career spanning several decades, major awards including a Grammy, an extensive discography, and long-standing collaborations with the world's leading orchestras and conductors. His collaboration with the OPO holds particular significance, following his appointment as the Orchestra's first-ever artist-in-residence in 2013.

The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1998, under the artistic vision of its Music Director Marios Papadopoulos, and has established itself as one of the UK's leading orchestras, with a strong international profile and enduring artistic partnerships.

The Pharos Arts Foundation proudly organised and presented this landmark concert, featuring an all-Tchaikovsky programme centred on his iconic Violin Concerto and the turbulent 'Fate' Symphony No.4. The performance was received by a full-capacity and highly enthusiastic audience, underlining the exceptional impact of the occasion.

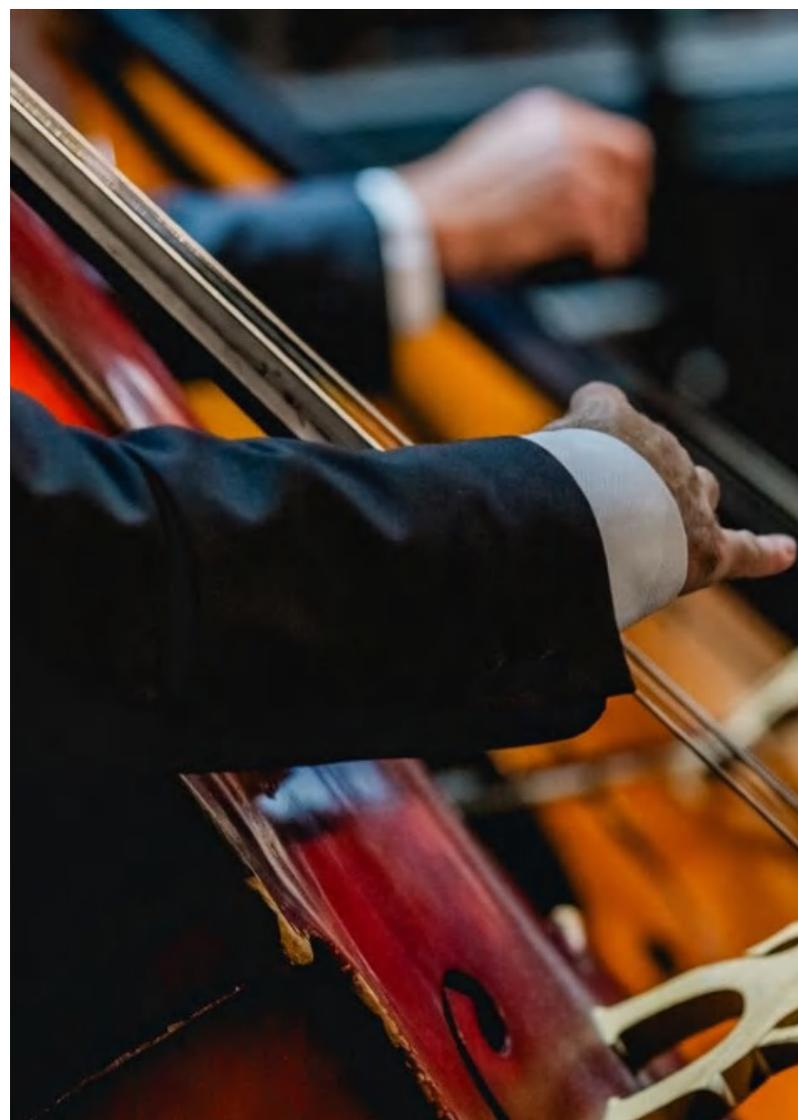
The event was sponsored by the Eastsib Foundation, Finstella, Vadim Levin, and Trilogy.



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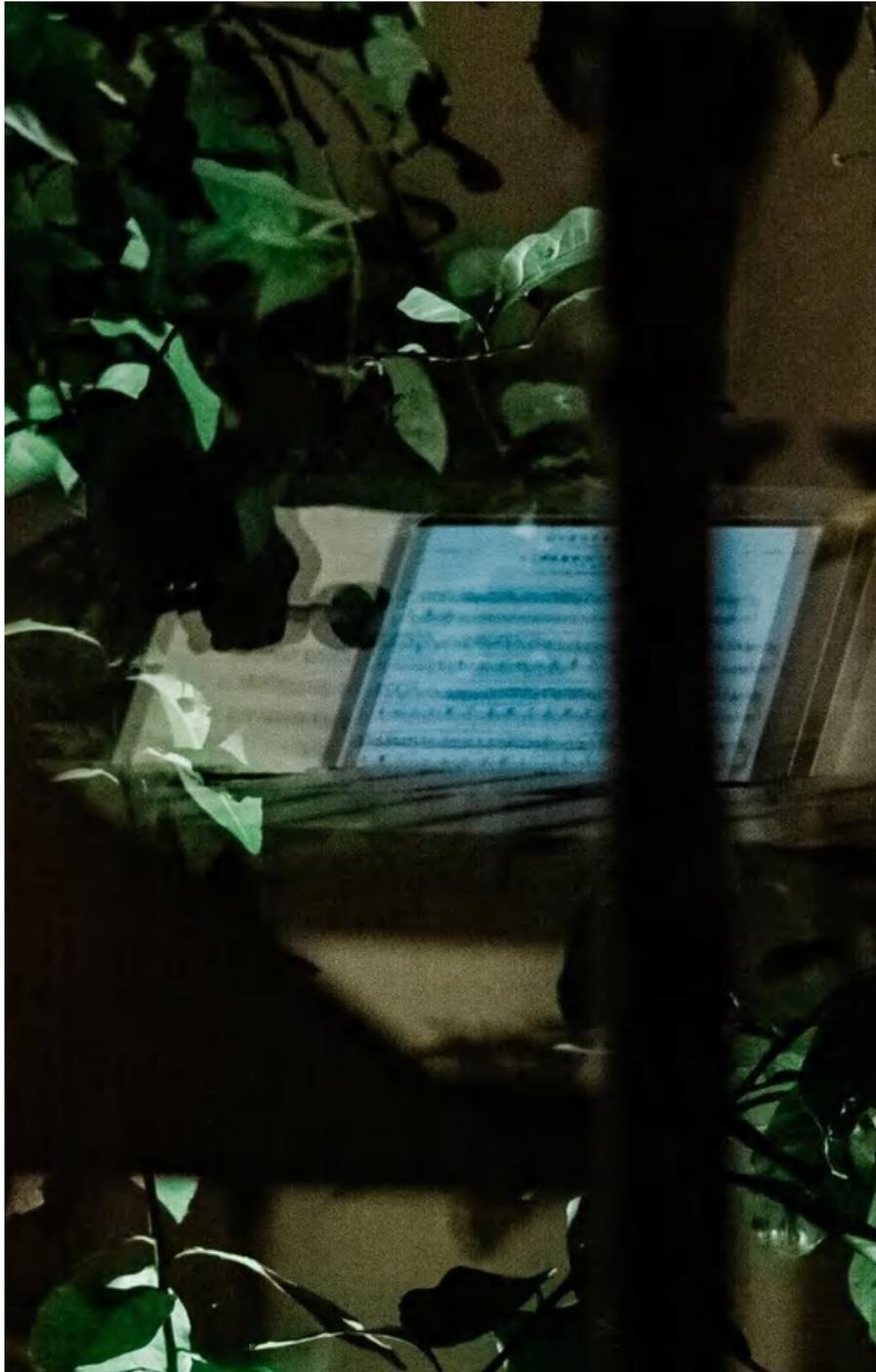
2 – 10 October

The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

16th INTERNATIONAL PHAROS CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Established as the first festival of new music in Cyprus, the Pharos Contemporary has played a defining role in introducing Cyprus audiences to the music of our times, while year after year bringing to the island some of the world's most legendary soloists and ensembles of contemporary music. Since its inception, the Festival has provided a vital platform for composers to collaborate with leading performers, and it has been instrumental in presenting premieres of landmark 20th-century works, as well as world and Cyprus premieres of new compositions by the younger generation of composers.

The 16th International Pharos Contemporary Music Festival unfolded through four concerts that interwove past and present, drawing connections between historical works and today's idiom. By tracing a dialogue across centuries, the Festival sought to offer listeners a deeper familiarity with the contemporary sound, while revealing the continuity of creativity that binds old and new. Alongside its concerts, the Festival also encompassed a parallel series of educational activities, including masterclasses, educational concerts, seminars, and presentations, underscoring its strong commitment to fostering knowledge and engagement with new music.



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BLACK PENCIL ENSEMBLE

The 16th International Pharos Contemporary Music Festival opened with the groundbreaking Black Pencil ensemble from the Netherlands. Founded in 2010, Black Pencil regularly appears at Europe's leading concert halls, including Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Muziekgebouw Frits Philips in Eindhoven, Kunsthalle Erfurt, and BKA-Theater Berlin. Treating over a thousand years of music history as its creative playground, the ensemble is renowned for its strikingly original instrumentation – recorders, panpipes, viola, accordion and percussion – which has inspired over 500 new works composed especially for them.

For their Cyprus debut as part of the Pharos Festival, Black Pencil offered the audience the opportunity to experience music that is imaginative, engaging and full of vitality. Far from the clichés often associated with contemporary music, the ensemble showcased a compelling programme of Cyprus premieres by Calliope Tsoupaki, Johannes K. Hildebrandt, Celia Swart, Hugo Morales Murguía, B.C. Manjunath, Enric Monfort and Anthony Fiumara, alongside the world premiere of commissioned works by Cypriot composers Antonia Kattou and Artemis Aifotiti. Ground-breaking sonorities stood alongside music that was dynamic, engaging and full of spirit.





TRIO MEDIÆVAL

The second concert of the Festival featured the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble Trio Mediæval. Founded in Oslo in 1997, the Grammy-nominated Trio has earned international recognition for its crystalline vocal blend and its unique repertoire, spanning sacred monophonic and polyphonic medieval music, Nordic traditions, and contemporary works created especially for them. With celebrated recordings on ECM and 2L, as well as invitations to the world's leading concert halls, Trio Mediæval has become one of today's most distinguished vocal ensembles.

For their Cyprus debut, Trio Mediæval offered a truly spellbinding performance that reflected the ensemble's wide artistic range, a marriage of medieval and contemporary music that gave rise to a powerful dialogue between past and present. The divine voices of the three female singers performed medieval motets from the Cyprus Codex, traditional Scandinavian hymns, and contemporary works written for the Trio by Sungji Hong, Andrew Smith, Marianne R. Eriksen, Oleh Harkavyy, Gavin Bryars and David Lang. The three voices blended with an almost angelic purity, creating a sound so transparent and luminous that the listener instantly lost sense of time, forgetting which piece was written five centuries ago and which only a few months earlier. It was a transcendental experience, where past and present dissolved into a seamless musical space-time continuum.





HAYK MELIKYAN piano

Recognised as one of the most versatile and imaginative performers of 20th-century and contemporary music, Hayk Melikyan has appeared on leading stages such as Geneva's Victoria Hall, Lisbon's Gulbenkian Grand Auditorium, and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw. A laureate of major international competitions and recipient of numerous honours, including the Concours d'Orléans and Premio Valentino Bucchi, he has been hailed as "a musical hero" for his commitment to contemporary music.

For his return visit to Nicosia, Melikyan offered a recital of rare coherence and profundity – a journey through centuries, where past and present reflected one another in an unbroken conversation. The recital coincided with the release of the pianist's new album in honour of J.S. Bach's 340th anniversary, and juxtaposed music by Bach and his Baroque contemporaries – Händel, Duphy, Rameau, Buxtehude, Pergolesi, Gluck and Purcell – with works by 20th- and 21st-century composers, including Morton Feldman, Pascal Dusapin, Elen Yolchian, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Galina Ustvolskaya, Akira Nishimura, Jaime Reis and John Cage, among them the Cypriot composers Andreas Tsiartas and Christina Athinodorou. The sequence of Baroque and contemporary works created a remarkable equilibrium: moments of purity and Dorian stillness alternated with bold, unrestrained sound worlds, gradually leading the listener from contemplation to intensity, from order to release. Hayk's recital was a deeply human experience, both cleansing and demanding, culminating in a sense of catharsis. It proved an ideal embodiment of the spirit of the International Pharos Contemporary Music Festival, where tradition and innovation meet in perfect balance.





ARNOLD & FRĄCZEK percussion duo

The final concert of the 16th International Pharos Contemporary Music Festival presented the dynamic Arnold & Frączek Percussion Duo. Both percussionists are laureates of prestigious international competitions, and together they have performed at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Palau de la Música Catalana, and the Lucerne Festival. They established the Duo in 2020, quickly gaining international acclaim for redefining percussive art through the distinctive sonorities of marimba and vibraphone. The Duo has also been acclaimed for its debut album *Chopin – Alter Ego*, featuring transcriptions of Chopin's works for marimba, vibraphone, and glockenspiel, alongside original compositions.

For their Cyprus debut, the Arnold & Frączek Percussion Duo presented a programme centred on Chopin mazurkas and waltzes, interspersed with works for percussion by John Lawless, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Mark Applebaum, Nebojša Jovan Živković, Takatsugu Muramatsu, Tomasz Arnold and Cypriot composer Nektarios Rodosthenous. The concert proved a revelation of rhythm, colour and imagination, a reminder that percussion can be as lyrical and expressive as it is powerful. Moving seamlessly between Chopin's refined dances and the daring landscapes of contemporary sound, the Duo transformed the marimba, vibraphone and an array of percussion instruments into voices of astonishing emotional depth. Their enthusiasm, precision and creative freedom turned the evening into a celebration of pure musical energy – a thrilling conclusion to this year's Pharos Contemporary Music Festival, where invention, experimentation and vision once again found their home.

The concert was supported by the Embassy of Poland in Cyprus.





Friday 24 October
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

WALDSTEIN TRIO

Formed in 2016 at the Santa Cecilia The Waldstein Trio comprises violinist Greta Papa, cellist Miguel Ángel Villeda, and Cypriot pianist Christos Fountos – who has recently taken the world by storm after winning Third Prize at the prestigious Busoni Piano Competition. Waldstein is already regarded as one of the most promising and exciting chamber ensembles in Europe. With appearances at leading venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall, Vienna's Musikverein, and Salzburg's Mozarteum, and having been awarded top prizes in major competitions, including the Manhattan International Music Competition and the Fanny Mendelssohn International Competition, the Trio has rapidly established an international reputation for the maturity and sensitivity of its performances, and for the breadth and ingenuity of its repertoire.

Presented as part of the Pharos Arts Foundation's Cyprus Artists Series, the remarkable Waldstein Trio filled the hall with their vibrant energy, cohesion, and sheer inspiration in their music-making, radiating passion and rare musicianship. Performing the most demanding repertoire with a natural freedom and profundity that can only come from genuine connection and shared vision, their thrilling programme brought together Fauré's introspective Piano Trio in D minor, Tchaikovsky's monumental Piano Trio in A minor, and the world premiere of a new work by the Cypriot composer Haris Kittos.



PHAROS REVIEW 2025



Saturday 8 November
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

PANDIT CHAKRABARTY sarod
VIDUSHI PANESAR sitar
SHAHBAZ HUSSAIN tabla

Marked by spiritual depth, intricate improvisation, and rhythmic refinement, Hindustani classical music continues to resonate with audiences worldwide through its profound balance between structure and freedom, contemplation and virtuosity. Three of today's foremost exponents of the tradition – Pandit Chakrabarty (sarod), Vidushi Panesar (sitar), and Shahbaz Hussain (tabla) – came together in a rare *jugalbandi*: a dialogue between equals, in which melodic and rhythmic ideas unfold through spontaneous exchange and shared inspiration. Rooted in the great lineages of North Indian classical music, these artists have each forged distinctive international careers while remaining deeply faithful to their respective traditions. Their mystifying performance in Nicosia explored the expressive depth of the *rāga* and the intricate rhythmic architecture of the *tāla*, revealing how centuries-old musical thought continues to evolve in the hands of a new generation.

The Pharos Arts Foundation dedicated this concert to the memory of Ruth Keshishian – an ardent admirer of Indian classical music and a cherished friend and collaborator of the Foundation.

The event was supported by the Indian High Commission in Cyprus.



PHAROS REVIEW 2025



Thursday 13 November
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

RECITAL

JULIAN CHAN piano

Rapidly establishing himself as one of the most innovative pianists of his generation, Julian Chan has given performances at numerous prestigious venues across the globe, including Wigmore Hall and Southbank Centre in London, the Nanjing Poly Theatre in China, and the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona. Julian has received numerous awards, most recently the First Prize and Sonata Prize at the Nanyang International Music Competition in Singapore, the Second Prize at the Jazeps Vitols International Piano Competition in Latvia, and the Royal Over-Seas League Collaborative Piano Award. With a repertoire embracing music from the Baroque to the Romantic era, Julian is equally dedicated to new music, both as a performer and a composer. He had his first book of compositions published at age 6, earning him the title of Malaysia's Youngest Composer.

For his Cyprus debut recital, Chan gave a striking performance of a rare programme marked by profound lyricism and technical brilliance, featuring works by Chopin, Bartók, Liszt, Schubert, and Earl Wild. With remarkable musical intent and composed authority, he offered a strong, uncompromising performance that affirmed his great gift and growing stature on the international scene.

The concert was organised in collaboration with the Keyboard Charitable Trust.



PHAROS REVIEW 2025



Friday 21 November
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

MALION QUARTETT

Winner of numerous top prizes at prestigious international competitions – including the Deutsche Musikwettbewerb, the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, and the Joseph Joachim Competition Weimar – the Malion Quartett has rapidly established itself as one of the most versatile and exciting ensembles of its generation. Founded in Frankfurt in 2018, the Quartett has since appeared in leading concert halls such as the Alte Oper Frankfurt, Cologne Philharmonie, the Wigmore Hall in London, and the Philharmonie de Paris, while its acclaimed discography has confirmed its reputation for artistic excellence, and its innovative projects have earned the ensemble a nomination for an Opus Klassik award.

The Malion Quartett made its Cyprus debut before an enthusiastic audience, delivering a memorable performance of technical mastery of the highest order and complete musical command. The striking programme included Mozart's arrangement of J.S. Bach's *Five Fugues* from the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, Tchaikovsky's powerful Quartet No.3, a work of symphonic scale and elegiac intensity, and Beethoven's monumental Quartet No.13 and its original finale, the radical *Grosse Fuge*.

The concert was sponsored by the Charles Haimoff Foundation.



PHAROS REVIEW 2025



Thursday 4 December
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

QUARTET GERHARD

Renowned for its commitment to the essence of sound and its profound sense of musical integrity, Quartet Gerhard has swiftly established itself among the leading European ensembles of its generation. Founded in Catalonia in 2010, the Quartet has been distinguished with numerous prizes at international competitions and has appeared in some of the world's foremost venues and festivals, including Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, and the Festival Radio France Montpellier. The Quartet is also recognised for its acclaimed discography, which has earned them Spain's Best Classical Album Award (2024) and the Critics' Award for Best CD (2016).

Quartet Gerhard made its Cyprus debut, astounding the audience with their impeccable technique in a thrilling programme comprising Beethoven's final string quartet, the radiant No.16 in F major, Op.135; Ravel's only String Quartet, written while the composer was still a student at the Paris Conservatoire, and often considered his first masterpiece for its extraordinary range of tone colour, vibrant rhythm, and subtle exoticism; and Joaquín Turina's highly impressionistic *Oración del Torero* string quartet.

The concert was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain and Instituto Cervantes, and it was sponsored by CPT.



PHAROS REVIEW 2025



Friday 12 December
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia

CONCERT

TRIO ZIMBALIST

Praised for its “versatility as well as virtuosity” and its “vigorous freshness and vitality”, Trio Zimbalist has rapidly established itself as one of the most distinguished chamber ensembles of its generation. Formed by three exceptional alumni of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia – violinist Josef Špaček, cellist Timotheos Gavriilidis-Petrin, and pianist George Xiaoyuan Fu – the Trio has appeared in major concert halls across Europe and the United States, including the Rudolfinum – Dvořák Hall in Prague, St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, Die Glocke in Bremen, and the Phillips Collection in Washington.

The Pharos Arts Foundation was delighted to present the Cyprus debut of Trio Zimbalist in a fascinating programme encompassing Brahms’ intense, symphonic-like yet reflective Piano Trio No.2 in C major; Haydn’s Piano Trio No.39 in G major, which was inspired by the fiery gypsy and Hungarian folk music the composer encountered while working at Eszterháza; and Weinberg’s heart-rending Piano Trio in A minor, written at the height of the Second World War. The three musicians gave an extraordinary performance before a full house, marked by exceptional cohesion, expressive depth, and a profound sense of ensemble.

The concert was supported by the PwC Foundation and PwC Cyprus.



PHAROS REVIEW 2025



EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Among the most defining commitments of the Pharos Arts Foundation is its Music Education Programme, a project conceived not as an auxiliary activity, but as a core expression of the Foundation's purpose. Launched in 2006 as the first structured, non-state initiative of its kind in Cyprus, the Programme has, over the years, grown into a far-reaching educational framework, bringing young people into direct contact with artists, ideas, and musical practices of the highest international level. Through concerts, encounters, and hands-on engagement, tens of thousands of students across the island have been introduced to music not as a distant object of admiration, but as a living, questioning art.

At the Programme's heart lies the belief that music education is not limited to the formation of professional musicians. It shapes the way young people listen, think, respond, and relate to the world around them. Exposure to serious artistic work cultivates attention, discipline, imagination, and empathy, qualities that extend far beyond the concert hall or classroom. By insisting on quality and depth, and by addressing students from diverse social and educational backgrounds, the Programme has contributed to the slow but essential task of building cultural literacy and confidence within Cypriot society.

Throughout 2025, all artists, composers, scholars, and ensembles invited by the Foundation took part in educational and community-oriented activities alongside their public performances. Educational concerts, masterclasses, workshops, lectures, and open rehearsals created spaces of encounter where learning unfolded through experience rather than instruction alone. In sustaining this dialogue between artists and audiences at formative stages of life, the Pharos Arts Foundation reaffirmed its conviction that education, like art itself, is most meaningful when it is grounded in direct human exchange.









WHY SUPPORT PHAROS?

WHY SUPPORT CLASSICAL MUSIC & THE ARTS?

Knowledge and culture create successful societies. The cultural sector offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the well-being of our society in a meaningful way. Commercial companies in Europe are increasingly aware that to invest in your community is to invest in your business. This is why they are forming mutually beneficial sponsorship relationships with arts organisations. The cultural sector (unlike the fast-entertainment industry) presents an exceptional opportunity to give back to the society of our island in a beneficial way. By supporting a historical private organisation like Pharos, you will contribute to the flourishing of culture, music and the arts in Cyprus and to the well-being of its people. By supporting a historical private organisation like Pharos, you will contribute to Cyprus' cultural development as well as intellectual and artistic growth.

SUCH SPONSORSHIP ALSO OFFERS A NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL BENEFITS:

Socially responsible companies cultivate positive brand recognition, increase customer loyalty, and attract top-tier employees

- Opportunities for enhancing a company's brand profile and public image by being associated with world class cultural events
- Expand your target audience by establishing authority in a niche market. It is a proven fact that classical music listeners and art lovers are customers who really value quality and trust.
- Establish credibility and increase brand awareness by demonstrating that your company values excellence and creativity, thus investing in the cultural enrichment of our society.
- The Pharos concerts, which feature some of the world's leading soloists can truly be an entertaining and inspiring experience for your valued clients. Take advantage of offering them complimentary / discounted tickets to the concerts and other events.
- Express your gratitude to your personnel by offering them complimentary / discounted tickets as part of your employee-recognition programme.

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF CHARITIES, WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE ONE THAT FOCUSES ON CLASSICAL MUSIC?

Unfortunately, the state mechanisms all over the world do not recognise the vital role of music and the arts in shaping a country's social and economic growth, until it is too late. Music and the arts are still considered a luxury and are the first to see cuts in their budget. They are neglected at our peril. The nurturing of aesthetic experience is nevertheless at the core of our evolution as human beings. At Pharos, we strongly believe that in these difficult and dangerous times, the cultivation of such values in our lives is more crucial than ever. Since antiquity, music has been considered the most supreme form of art and science as well as the most genuine expression of the human soul and spirit. Its support should never be considered a luxury but a necessity and an ethical responsibility. Our society can and must afford a cultural standard by which quality music is given the space and freedom to exist and inspire.

WHY SUPPORT THE PHAROS ARTS FOUNDATION?

Commitment to artistic excellence and the creative process is the Pharos Arts Foundation's mission and it is because of this commitment that it has gained an international reputation, which is unprecedented for Cyprus. Inaugurated in 1998, Pharos was the first active exponent of classical / chamber music in Cyprus, and it has been a remarkable pioneer in shaping the country's cultural infrastructure: It was the Foundation that initiated in Cyprus the first ever chamber music festival, the first ever contemporary music festival and the first music-education programme. Pharos aspires to be a beacon of light against the barbarism of the entertainment industry and seeks to offer a space for cultural expression that is an uncompromising search for authenticity and meaning. As a non-profit organization, the Pharos Arts Foundation is directly dependent on private sponsorship for the continuation of its programmes and for maintaining the high standard of its activities. We regard our supporters as philanthropists in the finest sense of the word.

TARGETED SPONSORSHIP

Companies can choose to support a specific concert of particular interest. Sponsoring specific events offers is an intelligent way to reach a specific target audience or perhaps associate yourself with the promotion of the music or the arts of a country with which your company has important connections. We would love to receive your ideas!

MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME

If you are interested in supporting the most vital part of our activities, youth development and music education, we would be delighted to discuss our forthcoming educational activities with you and to provide detailed accounts and expenditure estimates.

SUPPORT IN KIND

Pharos graciously accepts donations of goods and services. Most contributions of this type are for office equipment or costs associated with specific events. Sponsorship in kind offers an opportunity to advertise and increase awareness of your product in a very effective way. Contributions in kind are recognised as the equivalent of their monetary value and are acknowledged in the same fashion as other contributions.

DONATIONS OF ASSETS

The Foundation is happy to accept donations of assets such as shares, bonds and property, which may be sold and reinvested in agreement with the donor for a pre-agreed funding purpose.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Pharos Arts Foundation accepts monetary contributions designated for the funding of a given expense or one of its specific programmes or projects. Supporters can also set up endowment funds which will benefit the Foundation in perpetuity. The income from such a fund is used to support the purpose designated by the sponsor or by the management of the Pharos Arts Foundation to cover a recurrent expense.

TAX DEDUCTIONS

Contributions are fully tax deductible under Cyprus law. All contributions can be deducted in their entirety from the supporter's annual income tax. The Pharos Arts Foundation is a Cyprus registered charitable trust.

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- Company ADVERTISEMENT in: Concert Booklets of 4 events and in the end-of-the-year Review Publication
- 16 complimentary Tickets to be used for any concerts throughout the year

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- Company LOGO on: Banners of 1 event
- Company ADVERTISEMENT in: Concert Booklets of 8 events and in the end-of-the-year Review Publication
- Company PROFILE in: Review Publication (upon request)
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■ PHAROS CORPORATE PATRONS (From €20,000)

- Company LOGO on: Print Advertisements, Posters, Video Commercials, Social Media Stories, Tickets, Banners of all events
- Company LOGO on: Banners of all events
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- Company PROFILE in: Concert Booklets of all events and Review Publication (upon request)
- Company featured as the Major Sponsor of a Pharos Festival (Chamber or Contemporary) or as a Patron of the Education Programme
- Company featured as the sole Sponsor of 1 event, and offered 50 complimentary seats for valued customers and personnel
- Company banner and promotional material to be displayed during all events (upon request)
- Private preview of rehearsals and educational activities for Company Board Members / CEOs
- 6 complimentary Tickets for each concert

IN ADDITION, ALL CORPORATE SPONSORS RECEIVE:

- Company NAME to be acknowledged on Pharos website, end-of-the-year Review Publication and all Concert Booklets
- Company LOGO to appear on Pharos website with hyperlink to Company's Website
- Preferential seating for Company Board Members / CEOs
- Invitations to after-concert receptions
- 20% DISCOUNT on Pharos' publications / art-catalogues for all Company Personnel
- 30% DISCOUNT on commercial CDs by participating artists, sold at events for all Company Personnel
- 10% DISCOUNT on books at the Moufflon Bookshop, Nicosia for all Company Personnel
- Complimentary Concert Booklets for Company Board Members / CEOs

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

■ CONTRIBUTORS (€150 for single membership or €200 for couple membership)

A Contributor of the Pharos Arts Foundation confers the following benefits:

- 25 – 30% discount on all standard tickets
- 20% discount on Pharos publications / art-catalogues
- 30% discount on commercial CDs by participating artists, sold at events
- 10% discount on books at the Moufflon Bookshop, Nicosia
- Advance notice on forthcoming events through post and/or Email
- Over the phone Ticket Reservations
- Invitations to after-concert receptions
- Recognition in the Sponsors' page on all Concert Booklets, on the Pharos website and in the end-of-the-year Review Publication
- Two (or four for couple) complimentary ticket voucher(s) to be used at any Pharos concerts throughout the year

■ SUPPORTERS (from €250 for couple membership)

A Supporter is entitled to all the benefits of Contributor membership (couple), plus:

- Voucher for one complimentary commercial CD by participating artists, sold at events
- Complimentary Concert Booklet for all concerts
- Six complimentary Ticket Vouchers to be used at any Pharos concerts throughout the year

■ THE PHAROS CIRCLE (From €600 for couple membership)

The Pharos Circle membership confers all the benefits of the Supporter membership, plus:

- Complimentary tickets to all the concerts of the Pharos Chamber Music Festival
- Complimentary tickets to all the concerts of the Pharos Contemporary Music Festival
- Priority seating when booking is confirmed
- Private preview of concert rehearsals, educational concerts, exhibitions (upon request)
- 20% discount on books at the Moufflon Bookshop, Nicosia
- Advertisement of the member's business / organisation / charity in the concert booklet of one event (upon request)
- Voucher for three complimentary commercial CDs by participating artists, sold at events

■ PATRONS (From €1.000 for couple membership)

Patrons receive all the Pharos Circle benefits as well as additional individually tailored benefits including:

- Complimentary tickets to all the events
- Advertisement of the Patron's business / organisation / charity in the concert booklets of two events (upon request)
- Voucher for four complimentary commercial CDs by participating artists, sold at events.

THE PHAROS CENTRE

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

THE PHAROS CENTRE

Since its inception, in 1998, the Cyprus-based Pharos Arts Foundation has established an international reputation for artistic and cultural excellence. The Foundation's programme includes a regular concert and recital series, an annual Chamber Music Festival, established in 2001, an annual Contemporary Music Festival, established in 2009, a music education programme, exhibitions of contemporary art, publishing, and a lecture series on issues of global importance with distinguished speakers.

Our vision is to expand these activities by creating a centre for Art, Culture, and Dialogue in a beautiful setting of ancient olive groves and pine forest at Delikipos. The Centre will provide space for the visual and performing arts as well as a library and accommodation for visiting artists, writers, composers, musicians, and thinkers from all disciplines and backgrounds.

An important element of this Centre would be the Pharos Forum, providing a venue for dialogue and debate on issues that concern us all. Universal spiritual and material progress which we call civilization can only flourish in what has become the global village of the 21st century if we share basic ethical principles and develop a new world view, a paradigm determined by a reverence for life and nature as well as creative expression. The distinguishing characteristics of the Pharos Forum will undoubtedly be its setting and its human scale, bringing people together from all over the world to an intimate natural environment that allows the landscape to work its magic, and gives individuals time to develop genuine friendships and valuable conversations. John McMurray, the Scottish philosopher said 'The purpose of all meaningful knowledge is action, and the purpose of all meaningful action is friendship'. The Pharos Forum will cultivate these crucial notions and offer new collaborative ways of addressing difference and discord – of moving away from private understandings, as Heraclitus would have put it, towards perceptions of unity.

An additional crucial component of the project is the emphasis that would be given to music and the arts. All cultures and religions have expressed their highest aspirations through music and the arts. Sophocles says 'He who neglects the arts when young has lost the past and is the dead to the future'. The Pharos Centre will offer participants opportunities to listen to music-making of the highest order from the western classical tradition as well as other cultures and to engage in dialogue with leading international artists.

The Pharos Centre, situated on an island at a pivotal point between three continents and diverse cultures, will bring together men and women of goodwill to find a common language and to explore ways in which we can develop a saner, healthier and more sustainable world at the beginning of a millennium. If you would like to learn more about the Centre and contribute towards the realisation of our vision, you may contact the Pharos Arts Foundation.



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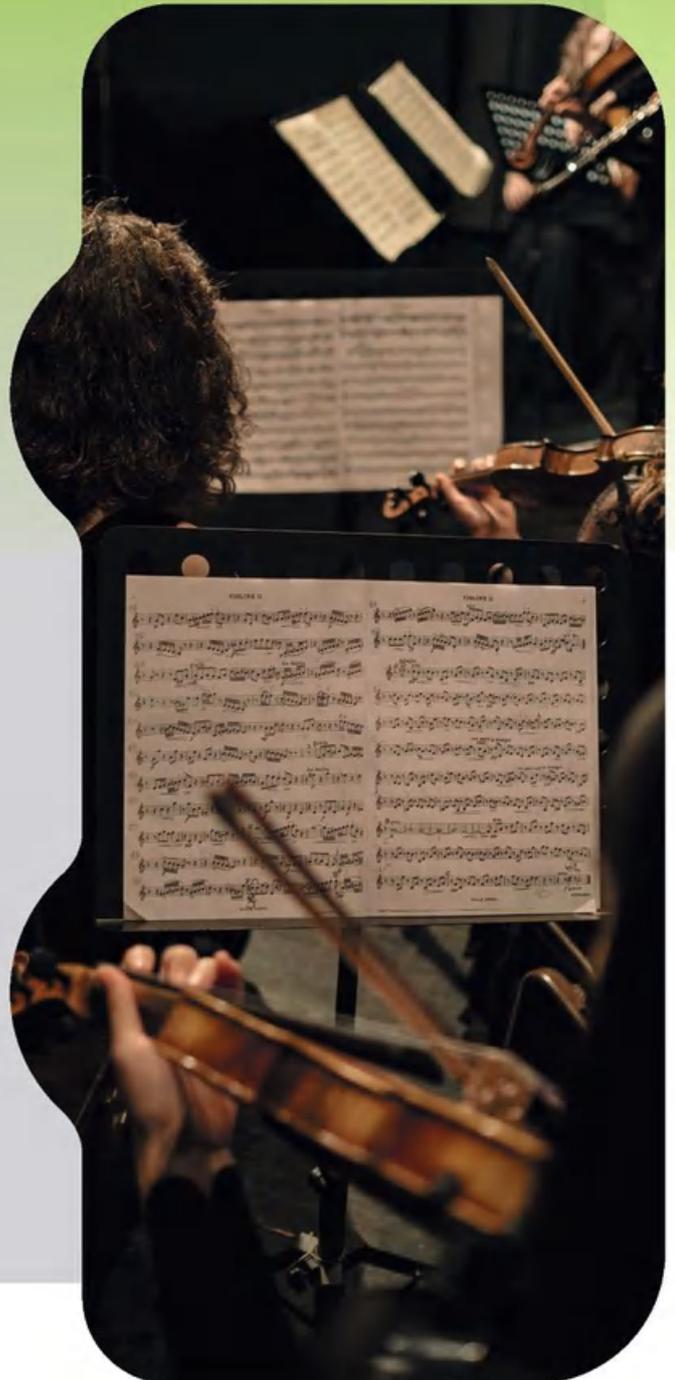
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