



# Petite Performance and Premiere

*Conducted by Carel Henn*

*15h30, 11 April 2021, Domus Dei Randburg-Suid*

## **Programme**

1. Elgar – String Serenade

2. Bach Brandenburg Concerto no. 4

Soloists: Ute Liebenberg (violin) Meg Twyford (flute) and Isabel Bradley (flute)

3. Dvořák – Wind Serenade

4. Gounod – Petit Symphony

5. Dvořák – String Serenade

6. Tchaikovsky – String Serenade

7. Michel Rondeau – Symphony no. 58

8. Jaco Meyer - Kérésre for Piccolo and Orchestra (World premiere)

Soloist: George Fazakas (piccolo)

## About the conductor



**Carel Henn** was born in 1972 and started cello lessons at the age of 11. He studied under Michael Haller in Bloemfontein and obtained a BA (Music) degree at the University of the Free State in 1994. A scholarship from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music enabled him to further his studies at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow where he obtained an MMus (Performance) degree with distinction. At the same time he also obtained the Performer's Licentiate of UNISA with distinction.

Carel has won several prizes and bursaries, such as the FAK Music Prize and PACOFS Music Awards; and has also won the String Category of the ATKV Forte Competition. He has appeared as soloist with several orchestras such as the PACOFS Orchestra, the Consortium Musicum, the National Chamber Orchestra, the RSAMD Orchestra, the Rand Symphony Orchestra, the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra and the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra. He was a member of the National Youth Orchestra and the Jeunesses Musicales World Youth Orchestra, with which he toured Canada, Belgium, Germany and Denmark.

For two years Carel was the principal cellist of the National Chamber Orchestra and has been a member of the National Symphony Orchestra since 1998. He is also a founder member of the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra. He is a keen chamber musician who performs regularly with various chamber music groups.

Carel's debut CD 'Appassionato' was released in 2004 and was nominated for a Kanna award at the 2004 KKNK and in 2005 won a GMT for the best classical album of the year. In 2010 he released his second album, 'Flying Solo', which incorporated multitracked solo cello music.

He has adjudicated for the Phillip H. Moore competition, the Krugersdorp Eisteddfod, the Pretoria Eisteddfod and was also on the screening panel for the UNISA International String Competition of 2010. As conductor he has had guidance from Gerhard Geist, Louis Zurnamer and Graham Scott and in 2012 he was deputy conductor for Pieter Toerien's production of The Phantom of the Opera. He is currently working as a freelance cellist, playing as principal cellist in the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra, the Johannesburg Music Initiative Orchestra and the Vienna String Quartet, to name but a few. He is also a keen teacher and teaches at various schools and music institutions.

## About the soloist



**György Sándor Fazakas** was born in 1955 at Miskolc, Hungary. He started music studies at age 5 with his father. In 1964 the whole family moved from Germany to South Africa. His father was principal tuba of the Philharmonica Hungarica and PACT Orchestra. George continued his music studies in South Africa with Prof Anton Kratz, Prof Leo Quayle, Joyce Joubert and Fred Poetsch. He completed his schooling at Pretoria Boys High in 1971 with music as a major and also completed Grade 8 (Royal Schools) in Piano. He started with the flute at age 18 and received lessons from André Salm, Jean Blanqué, Peter Baird and Amos Eisenberg. He also participated in flute master classes with James Galway, William Bennett, Susan Milan, Trevor Wye, Shigenuro Kudo, Marc Grauwels, Raffaele Trevisani, Ingrid Hasse, Hermann Klemeyer and Marlene Verwey.

### Career

In 1975 George joined the South African Army Band and achieved the rank of 1st Class Musician, principal flute and piccolo. In 1981 he received Teacher's Licentiate in flute from Unisa and Trinity College, London. He has also played with the SABC, PACT, Pro Musica, National Chamber orchestras as an extra flute/piccolo. He received various Eisteddfod diplomas and studied music at UNISA. In 1983 he was awarded the Fellowship of the Trinity College of Music. He is also a member of the South African Flute Association (FLUFSA), Canadian Flute Association and Nederlands Fluit Genootschap.

He was appointed as lecturer in flute at the School of Music, North-West University, and has worked there since 1982. He also teaches Flute at Gimnasium Musieksentrum since 1983. In 2017 he received the 35-year Long Service certificate from the North-West University and 35 years Long Service certificate from Hoërskool Gimnasium in 2018. George retired after 38 years of Service at the NWU School of Music at the end of 2020. George and his Wife Alex plan to move to Utrecht, Nederland in 2021.

### Performances, recordings and premieres

In 2014 he premiered *Boreas Blow* by Argentinian composer Mauro Zannoli for Flute and Electronics and Jaco Meyer's *Une dédicace Musica* for Flute solo. In 2015 George recorded 2 tracks on the CD *Gloria* with Potchefstroom High School for Girls Choir and several Flute pieces. In 2019 he performed the world premieres of Jaco Meyer's compositions *Lullabies for Flute solo* and *Lament for Flute and Electronics*. Due to Covid-19 *Nampti's Dance* by Franco Prinsloo for Flute and Piano is yet to be premiered.

For the past 27 years he has been a member of Musique Romantica (quartet of flute, violin, cello and keyboard) with 2 CD recordings and has been a member of Meloduo for 15 years (flute & harp) with 2 CD contributions. He has also recorded with the Potchefstroom Men's Choir (2 CD recordings) and Matlosane City Choir (2 CD recordings).

George was also a member of the orchestral ensemble with the world première of Requiem (2007); Gloria (2008) and Magnificat (2009) composed by Hester van der Westhuizen, as well as playing on the CD and DVD recordings.

He also recorded a CD and DVD with the Argentinian work Missa Criolla with the NWU Choir and Amanda Strydom (which has been broadcast numerous times on the TV channel KykNET) as well as Carnival of the Animals (as part of the chamber orchestra) with narrator Philip de Vos, and recordings with several popular South African musicians, including Anton Goosen and Marius Brouwer.

George has premiered at least one new SA composition for the last several years in the yearly SA Music Concert presented at the NWU School of Music. In 2012 he premiered and recorded the Flute solo *Visions d'esquisses par temps de neige op.5* by Jaco Meyer and in 2013 premiered and recorded the *Sonata for solo Flute* by the composer Martin Watt. Both works were dedicated to George by the respective composers.

### Instruments

George plays on a handmade Pearl Flute with a Michael C Botha head-joint and Hammig 650/4 Piccolo.

Visit **youtube.com** for recordings by George:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=george+fazakas](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=george+fazakas)

## About the composer



**Jaco Meyer** is a composer and academic, currently based in Johannesburg. He received his doctorate in music analysis and musicology from the NWU and his music has been performed by various local and international musicians, ensembles and orchestras. A large part of Meyer's repertoire comprises music for flute and he often explores alternative sound possibilities on the instrument.

His work is positively accepted and commended internationally. He started music lessons with Mrs Debbie Mostert in Rustenburg, followed by Mrs Louise Vermaak, Mrs Renate Nel and Dr Martin Ryan. His work as a musician and composer started in high school where he started a school orchestra and made music arrangements for the members of the orchestra. He also composed his own piano compositions for school concerts and festivals. Following his high school graduation, he enrolled for a BMus degree at the School of Music and Conservatory of the North-West University. Jaco studied composition with Prof Hannes Taljaard, piano with Prof Waldo Weyer, violoncello with Dr Human Coetzee, and African Music with Dr Alvin Petersen. He completed his BMus degree, specialising in Music Composition and Music Theory, with additional qualifications in Psychology, Art Philosophy, Statistics, and German. His lessons in

composition include working with local composers like Hannes Taljaard, Stefans Grové, Clare Loveday, Andile Khumalo, Martin Watt, Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph, and Jurgen Bräuninger as well as internationally renowned composers such as Wim Henderickx (Belgium), Jorrit Tamminga (The Netherlands), Diederik Glorieux (Belgium), Robert Fokkens (UK), Michael Pelzel (Switzerland), and Lukas Ligeti (Austria).

Jaco received bursaries from the North-West University (NWU), the South African Music Rights Organization (SAMRO), the National Research Foundation (NRF), and the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) to continue with post-graduate studies. He completed a Masters degree in Music Composition at the NWU which was awarded cum laude. The work for this degree consisted of a portfolio of compositions and a research dissertation on the principles of orchestration through the lens of musical forces. His research on musical forces was conducted in more depth for his PhD in Musicology and Music Analysis: he expanded the theory of musical forces by using analyses of the Belgian composer, Wim Henderickx's, music.

During the first year of his bachelor studies he needed a platform for his music to be performed, so he proposed and co-founded the Young Composers Concert with his lecturer, Hannes Taljaard. The Young Composers Concert soon became a prestigious annual music concert – and soon progressed into a week of workshops for new music – at the North-West University where young, talented composers' compositions are performed. Jaco's music was later performed on many more national and international stages by national and international artists, most notably the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders (now the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra), Duo Montagnard, The Chamber Music Company of London, and György Sándor Fazakas. Jaco also received several commissions which include compositions for violoncello and flute from the South African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO), music for DEKAT-TV (broadcasted on national television), various compositions for South African Music concerts of the North-West University, chorale preludes for the South African Church Organists Society (SAKOV) publications, flute compositions for György Sándor Fazakas, a solo piano composition for Rachele Elmes-Wessels, a violoncello and piano composition from Andrew Munro and Human Coetzee, and a choir composition from the North-West Children's Choir.

## **Compositions**

Although his music is unique in its strong conceptual frameworks, Jaco composed some compositions that should get special mention. Jaco interviewed Stefans Grové shortly before his 90th birthday, and Grové gave him a short theme that represented his own name (Stefans). Jaco composed a solo organ composition based on this theme for the 90th birthday celebration concert of Grové as part of the NWU South African Music Concert. This work was performed by Ockie Vermeulen. Jaco also composed a short work for viola and piano on the day that Nelson Mandela passed away, and continued to write a composition on every day until his funeral. These Elegies after the death of Nelson Mandela are eleven short compositions for viola and piano, first performed by Elmarie van der Vyver and Mathilda Hornsveld. Jaco was also the first composer known to set a text (Psalm 23), from the first direct translation of the Bible in Afrikaans to music. This composition was first performed by the North-West Children's Choir. Jaco is also befriended by the renowned conceptual and word artist, Willem Boshoff, whose works he applauds and studies. Some of the artworks of Willem Boshoff provided a conceptual framework for music and an entire section of Jaco's one portfolio was dedicated to music based on 'translated' artworks by Boshoff (see *Fünf Skizzen nach Kunstwerken von Willem Boshoff*). These compositions led to further research opportunities in music and visual art as well as further

collaborations between Meyer and Boshoff. Some of these compositions were performed by the Epoch String Quartet, Magda de Vries, Olivier Barrier, Morné van Heerden, and Elmarie van der Vyver.

Jaco's compositions have been received very positively at many concerts. The Swiss composer, Michael Pelzel, described his compositions as "very colourful and expressive ideas that are harmonically and formally well-structured". The British violinist, Jonathan Truscott from the Bergersen String Quartet, referred to Meyer's compositions as "moving music". The Belgian composer, Wim Henderickx, said the following about Jaco's orchestral composition: "The orchestral piece of Jaco Meyer is a vibrant and challenging work that uses a variety of orchestral combinations." Martyn Williams, a British composer, writes that Jaco has "the ability to manipulate musical material into coherent and well-trusted extended musical structures." Jaco is known to work very closely with performers and exploring the possibilities of musical instruments in great depths. This enables him to create interesting and idiomatic sound combinations and structures.

## **Academics**

Jaco's research on Musicology, Music Analysis and Ethnomusicology is often presented at both national and international conferences which include the South African Society for Research in Music (SASRIM), the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) the Pan African Society for Music and Arts Education (PASMAE), and the Society for Students of Systematic Musicology (SysMus). He was one of the first student presenters at the international IMS-SASRIM congress held in Stellenbosch, and delivered research papers at several of their national conferences. He was also the editor of a SAKOV publication, Nuusbrief, and wrote a series of music articles for the DEKAT magazine. Several of his research papers and compositions were published in national and international journals. A complete list of his research outputs, conference papers, and publications can be found here. His research is focused on the Theory of Musical Forces, developed by Steve Larson, and how the theory can be expanded and employed in music analysis and composition. Jaco is also experienced in teaching music theory and composition at tertiary, further education training, secondary, and primary level at the North-West University and Crawford Sandton.

## **About the orchestra**

The Rand Symphony Orchestra has been a vibrant contributor to community classical music in Gauteng for nearly 30 years. It offers musicians the opportunity to play ensemble work and perform in regular public concerts for their own enjoyment and that of the community.

The Rand Symphony is a community orchestra, comprised of people who freely give of our time to play, because we love music. Under the guidance of a professional conductor, we rehearse weekly to present regular concerts.

While the orchestra aims to be self-sustaining, we appreciate and welcome the support of those who believe in the importance of growing and building classical musicians and events. South Africa has a rich and diverse base of musical talent. Support classical music and become a Friend of The Rand Symphony Orchestra today!

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