

# CELLO CĒSIS

*Festival highlights*



VASKS  
BRAHMS  
SCHUBERT  
VIVALDI  
TUMŠEVICA



SKANI



At this festival we've met excellent cellists and heard outstanding, unforgettable interpretations. I believe that's the most important element of Cello Cēsis, and at each edition of the festival it brings music aficionados and professionals a new discovery or surprise. Some of these musical interpretations can be heard on this album.

**Inese Zagorska**, artistic director of the Cēsis Concert Hall

**Inese Zagorska:** The Cēsis Concert Hall is very new. It's an acoustic concert hall with an original, expressive interior in which cultural heritage merges with contemporary style. Latvian architect Juris Poga took a hundred-year-old building and successfully expanded and combined it with contemporary architectural forms and new additions. The old chandeliers and stair railing details have been preserved, and the building's elegant contours form a unified whole, giving the concert hall its special character.

Why did I begin with a visual description of the building? There's very much wood in the interior of the building, and the cello is also an instrument that has come from nature and should be played in nature. These are points of contact — the hall's acoustics, the sound of the cello — small but significant catalysts for the idea that we're organising a festival dedicated to the cello. Of course, also the cello's timbral characteristics, the outstanding cellists from Latvia and elsewhere, the large repertoire of music, and the multitude of possibilities that the instrument holds are some more reasons why the festival is devoted to the cello. We know of no other similar event in the Baltic and Nordic region, so this is a niche festival, something with which we can be fresh, new, interesting and in way also unique. In 2017 we were awarded the EFFE label by the European Festivals Association.

**Dāvis Engelis:** What does this label mean?

**IZ:** It symbolises the trust of European professionals

Gunta Ābele  
Kārlis Klotiņš  
Normunds Šnē



that this is a festival worth attending, that it's engaging, unique, original. The EFFE label is awarded to the most notable European festivals and is based on the criteria of artistic quality, community involvement and the festival's international and global outlook. Cello Cēsis is the only festival in Latvia to have received this recognition.

Cello Cēsis is a defining mark for our concert hall. Every year in mid-September the festival opens our new concert season. The festival's format gives us a wide range of possibilities and creative freedom. We can offer a number of different concert venues, and the cello is celebrated in concert halls as well as outside of them, in the urban environment. In any case, when developing a new festival, it's important to remain true to oneself, to preserve one's identity, at the same time discovering new forms of expression and also experimenting.

Perhaps Latvia still does not have very strong traditions in cultural tourism, when people arrive, stay overnight and listen to all of the concerts a festival offers. But we're gradually working towards that, towards developing a group of festival friends. We're young, but it's also true that our festival concerts are very well attended.

We've met excellent cellists and heard outstanding interpretations. I believe that's the most important element of Cello Cēsis, and at each edition of the festival it brings music aficionados and professionals a new discovery or surprise. It's musical interpretations like these that are included on this album.

**DE:** How did you decide which works to include on this album?

**IZ:** First of all, they're large-format, monumental works covering a very broad period of time, from Antonio Vivaldi to Anitra

Tumševica. And to a certain point they perhaps also reflect the meaning and depth of our festival. By beginning the album with Pēteris Vasks and ending it with Tumševica, we symbolically highlight the work of our own, Latvian composers. It forms a kind of circular structure, beginning with the well-known *Presence* by Vasks and finishing with the Cello Concerto by the middle-generation composer Tumševica. I think the overall impression is very powerful.

**DE:** It's hard to speak about Vasks without referring to anything that's already been written about him or notions that have become entrenched in our cultural space. Regarding his composition *Presence*, does this music contain anything mystical or enigmatic that you have not understood, anything that has eluded people who have attempted to describe his music with words?

**IZ:** There's a timeless quality to Vasks' music. It's impossible to describe in words what his music is like. At the same time, I'd also like to state that it's not complicated music — it's understandable and able to arouse emotion and a kind of self-purification process in every listener. Like taking a drink of crystal clear water.

Speaking of *Presence*, Marko Ylönen's rendition of it — the second after Sol Gabetta's performance — stood apart with its Scandinavian restraint, which actually had even more depth and an inexpressible, long-lasting aftereffect.

Vasks' music is close to the listener, it's not distant or foreign. It's so full of humanity. That's why his music is so much in demand; it's music that the whole world listens to. At our festival, too, we want to feel this presence of the listeners, so that we're understood and trusted and followed.

Normunds Šnē



**DE:** Tell us about the performance of Brahms' Double Concerto by Kristīne Blaumane and Boris Brovtsyn.

**Iz:** The Brahms – in terms of the cello festival and cello music in general, it's an extraordinary piece! Kristīne suggested a partnership with London-based violinist Boris Brovtsyn. They had already played the piece together, which is very important for this concerto, because at the festival the orchestra meets the soloists for only a couple of rehearsals before the concert.

The Brahms Double Concerto was one of the most powerful performances at the festival. But there's also a small side story associated with this performance. Just a couple of days before the concert, Brovtsyn was playing football and broke his leg. Thank God, not his arm! We helped him onto the stage and seated him on a bar chair. But none of this disrupted the performance, and the way both soloists played together – which is of such importance in this piece – was simply wonderful!

**DE:** There's another pair of soloists on the album: Gunta Ābele and Sinfonietta Rīga first cellist Kārlis Klotiņš playing together in the Vivaldi Concerto.

**Iz:** Vivaldi was played at one of our first festivals. The main thing we still try to do is feature several different cellists within a single concert programme. Ēriks Kirſfelds and Marko Ylönen were also soloists in this programme. Gunta and Kārlis played this Vivaldi composition, which is one of the most popular pieces in the cello repertoire.

The Vivaldi is not at the beginning of the album, as one might assume, seeing as we're going through the centuries. Instead,

we've put it in an unexpected place, right before Tumševica, like a prologue. It's a huge contrast between different centuries, but surprisingly it prepares listeners, or makes them accept, that there's no dissonance, that you can simultaneously accept music from various periods.

**DE:** How did the collaboration with Mario Brunello develop? He played the Arpeggione Sonata on cello in Cēsis.

**Iz:** I've known maestro Mario Brunello since the Kremerata Baltica Festival days. He's a musician with a unique way of thinking – he's a musician, a philosopher, a theatre lover, a great soloist and chamber musician, and also an organiser of unprecedented musical projects. He has a festival in which he heads into the Dolomite Mountains, barefoot and carrying his cello on his back, to play concerts for his listeners. He's one of those cellists who lives in harmony with nature, and he doesn't worry about getting a drop or two of rain on his cello. To the Cēsis festival he brought along a score for Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata transcribed for cello and orchestra by Spanish cellist Gaspar Cassadó. The piece was quite a revelation for many listeners.

**DE:** The final piece on the album is Anitra Tumševica's *Sun Music*, which was performed at the festival in a new arrangement.

**Iz:** I had listened to this work by Anitra countless times in the version for cello and symphonic band before we commissioned her to arrange the band part for strings. At the concert, Ēriks Kirſfelds demonstrated an unforgettable cadenza and improvisation. And each festival brings us exciting musical discoveries such as this.



Boris Brovtsyn  
Kristīne Blaumane

Festivālā esam satikušies ar lieliskiem čellistiem un vienreizējām, neatkārtojamām interpretācijām. Manuprāt, tas ir “Čello Cēsis” svarīgākais elements, kas ik festivālā mūzikas zinātājiem un profesionāliem atnes arvien kādu jaunatklājumu, vai pārsteigumu. Tās ir mūzikas interpretācijas, no kurām dažas varam dzirdēt šajā albumā.

**Inese Zagorska**, koncertzāles “Cēsis” mākslinieciskā vadītāja

**Inese Zagorska:** Koncertzāle “Cēsis” ir ļoti jauna. Tā ir akustiska koncertzāle ar oriģinālu, izteiksmīgu interjeru, kurā lieliski sa-dzīvo kultūras mantojums un mūsdienīgums. Senu, simtgadīgu namu latviešu arhitekts Juris Poga veiksmīgi kombinējis un papildinājis ar laikmetīgām arhitektūras formām, jaunām ēkas daļām. Saglabātas senās lustras, kāpņu margu elementi, elegantās ēkas aprises veido kopējo tās tēlu un piešķir koncertzālei savu īpašu raksturu.

Kāpēc es sāku ar ēkas vizuālo raksturojumu — koncertzāles interjerā ir ļoti daudz koka elementu un arī čells ir instruments, kurš nācis no dabas, jāspēlē dabā. Tie ir saskarsmes punkti, koncertzāles akustika, čella skanējums, kas bija mazi, bet zīmīgi impulsi domai, ka veidojam festivālu, veltītu čellam. Protams, arī čella membrālās iespējas, izcilie Latvijas un pasaules čellisti, plašais repertuārs un iespēju daudzveidība, ko ietver viens instruments, bija daži no iemesliem, kāpēc festivāls veltīts čellam. Baltijā un Ziemeļregionā neatradām citu līdzinieku, tas ir nišas festivāls, ar kuru varējām būt svaigi, jauni, interesanti un savā ziņā unikāli. 2017. gadā saņēmām Eiropas Festivālu asociācijas zīmolu EFFE Label.

**Dāvis Enģelis:** Ko šis zīmols nozīmē?

**IZ:** Zīmols simbolizē Eiropas profesionāļu uzticību, ka šis ir festivāls, kuru vērts apmeklēt, ka tas ir saistošs, savdabīgs, oriģināls.

A photograph of a man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a black shirt, playing a double bass. He is looking upwards and to his right with his eyes closed. In the background, another person is visible playing a violin. The setting appears to be a concert hall with wooden floors and walls.

Mario Brunello

EFFE Label tiek piešķirta ievērojamākajiem Eiropas festivāliem, balstoties uz tādiem kritērijiem kā mākslinieciskā kvalitāte, kopienas iesaiste un festivāla starptautiskā un globālā perspektīva. Čello Cēsis ir vienīgais festivāls no Latvijas, kas saņēmis šo atzinību.

“Čello Cēsis” ir mūsu koncertzāles atpazīstamības zīme, ik gadu septembra vidū mēs ar festivāla koncertiem atklājam jauno koncertsezonu. Festivāla formāts sniedz plašas iespējas, radošu brīvību. Varam variēt ar dažādām koncertu norises vietām, čells tiek spēlēts gan koncertzāles zālēs, gan ārpus tās, pilsētvidē. Katrā ziņā, veidojot jaunu festivālu ir svarīgi palikt uzticīgam sev, saglabāt savu patību, vienlaikus atklājot jaunus izpausmes veidus un arī eksperimentējot.

Varbūt vēl Latvijā nav izveidojušās stipras kultūrtūrisma tradīcijas, kad cilvēki atbrauktu, nakšnotu un klausītos visus festivāla koncertus kopumā. To mēs pakāpeniski veidojam, savu festivāla draugu kopienu. Esam jauni, taču jāatzīst, ka festivāla koncerti ir ļoti labi apmeklēti.

Esam satikušies ar lieliskiem čellistiem un vienreizējām interpretācijām. Manuprāt, tas ir “Čello Cēsis” svarīgākais elements, ka ik festivāls atnes mūzikas zinātājiem un profesionāļiem kādu jaunatklājumu vai pārsteigumu. Tās ir mūzikas interpretācijas, no kurām dažas varam dzirdēt šajā albumā.

**DE:** Pastāsti, kā izvēlējāties, kurus darbus likt albumā.

**IZ:** Pirmkārt, tie ir lielas formas, monumentāli darbi, kas aptver ļoti plašu laiku periodu no Vivaldi līdz Anitrai Tumševicai. Un

varbūt zināmā mērā atspoguļo mūsu festivāla jēgu un dziļumu. Mēs pievēršam uzmanību mūsu, latviešu komponistu darbiem. Šajā albumā gluži simboliski sākam ar Pēteri Vasku un noslēdzam ar Anitru Tumševicu. Veidojas aplveida kompozīcija — sākam ar pasaule zināmo Vaska “Klātbūtni” un noslēdzam ar mūsu vidējās paaudzes komponistes Čellkoncertu. Kopējais iespāids man liekas ļoti spēcīgs.

**DE:** Grūti runāt par Pēteri Vasku, neatsaucoties uz jau uzrakstīto vai domām, kas nogūlušās mūsu kultūrtelpā. Domājot par Vasku un “Klātbūtni”, vai šajā mūzikā ir kas mistisks, miglains, ko Tu neesi sapratusi, uz ko atbildes nav sniedzis neviens, kurš centies Vaska mūziku aprakstīt vārdiem?

**IZ:** Vaska mūzikai piemīt pārlaicīgums. Nevar nemaz vārdos noformulēt, kāda ir Vaska mūzika. Bet gribu teikt, ka tā nav sarežģīta, tā ir saprotama un spēj izraisīt ikvienā klausītājā īpašas sajūtas, sevis attīrišanās procesu. Kā padzeroties tīrskaidru ūdens malku.

Runājot par “Klātbūtni”, somu čellista Marko Ilonena atskaņojums, otrs pēc Solas Gabetes pirmlasījuma, izcēlās ar skandināvisku atturību, bet līdz ar to vēl lielāku dziļumu, neizsakāmu, vēl ilgi paliekošu pēcsajūtu.

Pētera Vaska mūzika ir tuva klausītājam, tas nav kaut kas attālināts un svešs, tajā ir tik daudz cilvēcības. Tāpēc viņa mūzika ir tik pieprasīta, mūzika, kuru klausās visā pasaule. Arī mūsu festivālā mēs vēlamies sajust klausītāju klātbūtni, lai esam saprotami, lai mums uzticas un mums sekō.

Ēriks Kiršfelds  
Artūrs Gailis



**DE:** Kā Tu atceries Kristīnes Blaumanes un Borisa Brovcina uzstāšanos Brāmsa Dubulkoncertā?

**IZ:** Runājot par Brāmsu, visā čella festivāla un čella mūzikas paletē tas ir vienreizējs darbs! Kristīne partnerībai ieteica Londonā dzīvojošo vijolnieku Borisu Brovcinu, viņi jau bija šo darbu spēlējuši kopā, kas šim koncertam ir ļoti svarīgi, jo festivālā orķestris ar solistiem satiekas tikai pāris mēģinājumos pirms koncerta.

Brāmsa dubultkoncerts bija viens no spēcīgākajiem iespaidiem festivāla koncertiem. Ar šo atskānojumu saistās arī mazs starpgadījums, Boriss Brovcins, spēlējot futbolu, pāris dienas pirms koncerta salauza, paldies Dievam, ne roku, bet kāju. Mēs viņu atvedām, nosēdinājām uz bāra krēsla. Bet visi šie apstākļi nebija traucējoši un abu mūziķu saspēle, kas šajā darbā ir tik būtiska, bija tiešām vienreizēja!

**DE:** Albumā varam dzirdēt vēl vienu saspēli – Gunta Ābele un Sinfonietta Rīga koncertmeistars Kārlis Klotiņš Vivaldi koncertā.

**IZ:** Vivaldi tika atskānots vienā no pirmajiem festivāliem. Pamatdoma, kuru mēģinām īstenot joprojām – vienā koncertprogrammā parādīt vairākus čellistus. Šajā programmā solisti bija arīdzan Ēriks Kiršfelds un Marko Ilonens. Gunta un Kārlis nospēleja Vivaldi, šo vienu no populārākajiem čella repertuāra darbiem. Vivaldi neskan albuma sākumā, kā varētu domāt, ja ejam cauri gadsimtu lokiem. Albumā esam to ielikuši negaidītā vietā – pirms Tumševicas, kā prologu. Tas ir milzīgs kontrasts starp

dažādiem gadsimtiem, taču pārsteidzoši – tas sagatavo klausītāju vai liek pieņemt, ka tur nav disonances, ka vari vienlaikus pieņemt dažādu laikmetu mūziku.

**DE:** Kā izveidojās sadarbība ar Mario Brunello? Viņš Cēsīs uz čella spēlēja Arpedžones sonāti.

**IZ:** Maestro Mario Brunello pazīstu no Kremerata Baltica festivāla laikiem. Viņš ir mūziķis ar savu savdabīgu domāšanu, mūziķis, filosofs, teātramīlis, lielisks solists un kamermūziķis, kā arī nebijušu muzikālu projektu organizators. Viņam ir festivāls, kur viņš ar plikām kājām un čellu mugurā Dolomītu Alpos dodas spēlēt koncertus saviem klausītājiem.

Mario ir viens no tiem čellistiem, kurš dzīvo saskaņā ar dabu, un kuru neuztrauc kāda lietus lāse uz viņa čella. Uz festivālu Cēsīs Mario Brunello atnesa partitūru ar Šūberta Arpedžones sonāti spāņu čellista Gaspara Kasādo pārlikumā čellam un orķestrim. Šis bija darbs, kurš daudziem klausītājiem bija pirmatklājums.

**DE:** Noslēdzošais skaņdarbs ir Anitras Tumševicas “Saules mūzika”. Festivālā tas izskanēja jaunā veidolā.

**IZ:** Šo latviešu komponistes opusu noklausījos neskaitāmas reizes versijā čellam ar pūtēju orķestri, pirms mēs Anitrai pasūtījām, lai pūtēju partijas viņa pārliktu stīgām.

Koncerta laikā Ēriks Kiršfelds demonstrēja neaizmirstamu kadenci un improvizāciju. Un šādus aizraujošus muzikālus atklājumus atnes ikkatrs festivāls.



Marko Ylönen

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Marko Ylönen, cello (1)  
Boris Brovtsyn, violin (2)  
Kristīne Blaumane, cello (2)  
Mario Brunello, cello (3)  
Gunta Ābele, cello (4)  
Kārlis Klotiņš, cello (4)  
Ēriks Kirſfelds, cello (5)

Sinfonietta Rīga  
Normunds Šnē,  
conductor (1, 2 & 4)  
Artūrs Gailis,  
conductor (3 & 5)

1. Pēteris Vasks  
Cello concerto No. 2 *Presence*,  
III Adagio | 12:56
  2. Johannes Brahms  
Concerto for Violin and Cello, Op.102,  
I Allegro | 17:31
  3. Franz Schubert/Gaspar Cassadó  
Cello Concerto in D minor (Arpeggione  
Sonata, D.821) I Allegro moderato | 13:41
  4. Antonio Vivaldi  
Concerto for 2 Cellos in G minor,  
RV 531, II Adagio | 2:47
  5. Anita Tumševica  
*Sun Music* for Cello and Symphony  
Orchestra | 21:23
- TT 68:35

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