



-press release-

*Nicolas Altstaedt | Alisa Weilerstein | Kian Soltani | Jean-Guihen Queyras  
Truls Mørk | Mischa Maisky | Giovanni Sollima | Kristina Blaumane*

## **Anniversary edition Cello Biennale Amsterdam looks ahead *and* back with reprogrammed highlights and twelve world premieres**

**27/6/2024 | From Thursday, October 31st until Sunday, November 10th Amsterdam will be home to the biggest cello festival in the world: the Cello Biennale Amsterdam. The festival entails more than a hundred concerts, family shows, masterclasses, the National Cello Competition, and an extensive side programme. This year marks the tenth edition of the Biennale and, to celebrate, the festival will include twelve world premieres. In addition, some of the absolute highlights from the previous nine editions will make a return. Nearly all the major orchestras of The Netherlands will make an appearance and, for the first time in the history of the festival, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra will perform at the Biennale: the orchestra will share the stage with soloists Alisa Weilerstein and Nicolas Altstaedt in new cello concertos by Matthias Pintscher and Liza Lim, respectively.**

The world's biggest cellists are coming to Amsterdam. It was in 2012 that one of the most famous soloists of today, Truls Mørk, came to the Biennale to perform Shostakovich's popular *First Cello Concerto*. This year he will star with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in the *Second Cello Concerto*, and rising star Ivan Karizna will play the *First Concerto* on this same evening. The Residentie Orchestra will play the Hebrew rhapsody *Schelomo* with Mischa Maisky and Kabalevsky's rarely performed *Second Cello Concerto* with Kian Soltani, who will repeat his impressive and moving performance of the previous edition. Jean-Guihen Queyras will appear as soloist with the Orchestra of the 18th Century in Haydn's *Cello Concerto in C*. His performance of this work at the Biennale in 2006 left such an impressive mark that it just has to be repeated during this anniversary edition. "The goosebumps started right at the first note, it was amazing," says artistic director Maarten Mostert.

With soloist Johannes Moser, Cappella Amsterdam will bring a world premiere by Mathilde Wantenaar. With Pieter Wispelwey they will perform Sofia Gubaidulina's spectacular *Canticle of the Sun*. Their performance of this work during the first ever Biennale in 2006 was an absolute highlight of that edition. Kian Soltani's night concert promises to be sensational,

where he will perform his arrangements of Hollywood blockbusters live for the very first time. The new generation of cellists is represented by names such as Maya Fridman, Erica Piccotti, Laura van der Heijden, Ella van Poucke, Hayoung Choi, Stefano Bruno, and Alexander Warenberg.

### **World premieres**

This edition will feature no fewer than twelve world premieres. In addition to the new work by Liza Lim and Mathilde Wantenaar, there will be premieres by Arnold Marinissen, Guus Janssen, Wilma Pistorius, Giovanni Sollima, and Silvia Borzelli. Azerbaijan composer Franghiz Ali-Zadeh will write a new cello concerto specially for Ivan Monighetti and Amsterdam Sinfonietta. This year, Martin Fondse will write the new composition for the Hello Cello Orchestra: the big zooming cello orchestra with 140 cello-playing. The commissioned work for the National Cello Competition will be composed by Matthias Bartolomey.

### **CELLOFEST**

CELLOFEST, the Biënnale's subfestival in Bimhuis, is all about non-classical cello. Think styles like jazz, electronic, rock, singer-songwriter, world music, and pop. Among the absolute audience picks is BartolomeyBittmann. The Viennese duo, known to have blown the roof off three times already at previous editions of the Biënnale, is formed by cellist Matthias Bartolomey and violinist and mandola player Klemens Bittmann. Canadian metal cellist Raphael Weinroth Browne is unique in his genre. He is a world-renowned musician and performs mainly in the United States and Canada. Specially for CELLOFEST, he is coming to Europe.

### ***Cello Biënnale Amsterdam***

***Thu, Oct 31 until Sun, Nov 10, 2024***

***Muziekgebouw and Bimhuis, Amsterdam***

***Tickets & Info***

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Editorial note: for more information, extra image material and interview requests, please contact Marleen Paping of the Cello Biënnale Amsterdam (06-54 661 998, [marleen.paping@cellobiennale.nl](mailto:marleen.paping@cellobiennale.nl)).