MEDIA RELEASE 2014/03/10

CD ‘CELOLLO FOR AFRICA’ BY SA CELLIST HELEEN DU PLESSIS RESIDING IN NEW ZEALAND WAS RELEASED INTERNATIONALLY

Also featuring: Concerto for an African Cellist by South African composer Hans
http://www.huyssen.de/

Soloist Heleen Du Plessis http://heleenduplessis.com/
OSM CAMERATA
ODEION SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

In 2010 South African cellist Heleen du Plessis, Executant lecturer for cello at the University of Otago, initiated a project “Cello for Africa” to record a CD of new South African compositions for cello reflecting the multi-cultural context of the country. Du Plessis received an extensive research grant from the University of Otago in order to realize the project by commissioning, premiering and recording music, which facilitated a dialogue between Western and African musical traditions and between the cello and indigenous African instruments. Given Hans Huyssen’s specific interest and experience in indigenous African music, the SAMRO Foundation has granted Du Plessis’ request to commission Hans Huyssen to this task. (Attached please find a synopsis of the work, Cello Concerto for an Africa Cellist compiled by Huyssen).

The world premiere concert preceded the recordings at the Odeion School of Music at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa in March 2013, which was partially funded by a Humanities Research Grant (University of Otago) as well as the UFS Odeion School of Music. The event provided a collaborative platform for musicians from different cultural backgrounds and several institutions, contributing towards a cultural and musical exchange. The funding enabled the project to be concluded successfully in a CD recording “Cello for Africa” released by the New Zealand label for classical music ODE records.
Du Plessis commissioned a new work from Peter Klatzow entitled *A Sense of Place* for marimba and cello (marimba recited by Magadelena De Vries) for and included Klatzow’s Sonata for Cello and Piano on the recording.

The OSM Camerata (OSMC) is the flagship ensemble of the OSM and was founded in 2012 with the main objective to kindle and forge the talents of exceptionally gifted students and literally chasing after the highest artistic standards possible. The OSMC participated in 2013 in the 13th International Conservatoire Festival which was hosted at the Rimsky Korsakov Conservatoire in St Petersburg Russia. The OSMC received a standing ovation during their gala performance in the Glazunov Hall with a programme by South African composers Stefaans Grové and Hendrik Hofmeyr.

The recording ‘Cello for Africa’ CD is one of five nominations for The Violoncello Foundation - 2nd Listeners’ Choice Award in NY.

Please use the link below and vote for the CD
http://violoncellofoundation.org/secondlistenerschoiceaward.html
Voting ends on 15 March!

Last movement extracts from “Concerto for an African Cellist by Huyssen with OSM Camerata on “Cello for Africa” CD
http://youtu.be/P1Zx_7Hoezk

Movement 2& 3 from Concerto for an African Cellist by Huyssen with OSM Camerata
http://youtu.be/wELPdoMNJfE

Extracts from the recording with OSMC for the CD “Cello for Africa” !
http://youtu.be/g-YBy9YmoOc

Purchase the CD online from Marbecks Classical MC ships worldwide.
http://www.marbecksclassical.co.nz/detail/528489/Cello-For-Africa

Marius Coetzee

Innovation & Development Manager: Odeion School of Music

PO Box / Posbus 339, Bloemfontein 9300, Republic of South Africa
+27 (0) 51 4012328
+27 (0) 72 338 2240
+27 (0) 51 444 5830
CoetzeeML@ufs.ac.za
www.ufs.ac.za