



Elina Buksha, artiste-in-residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel



Miguel da Silva, Master in Residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel

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is not uncommon to see a herd of deer go by. There are also two smaller music studios at the disposal of the professors, musicians and ensembles in residence. An Artists' Village with a gourmet restaurant, kitchen, lounge and a leisure area make the Music Chapel the right environment that is necessary for the complete development of the artistes.

SOME OF ITS MASTERS

High-level training in six disciplines is available by Masters in Residence: José van Dam for voice, Augustin Dumay for violin, Maria João Pires for piano, Gary Hoffman for cello, Miguel da Silva for viola and chamber music, and the Artemis Quartet for chamber music. The presence of these masters, each of whom is pursuing an intense professional career in the world of music, constitutes the cornerstone of the pedagogical project. The transmission of knowledge with the master occurs,

for instance, through the informal transmission of professional experience as well as the master's accompaniment and support during the young musical talent's first steps of their professional life, and the shared experience of performing side by side in no less than 300 performances each year, all over the world.

The construction of the new de Launoit wing was spearheaded by Bernard de Launoit, the Executive President and grandson of Baron Paul de Launoit. It strengthens the vocation of this mythical space as a hub of musical excellence set in a natural setting. Like the monolith in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, the new wing takes the shape of a long block, measuring almost 100 m, stretching out at the back of the old building. Like a backdrop created for this listed and protected monument, the architectural construction blends glass and stone to create an environment

that reflects the surrounding greenery as much as it responds to the existing architecture. More than work on just the image, the building invites visitors to immerse themselves in the world of music through the transcription of a musical score by Ysaÿe (*Harmonies du soir* Op. 31) in a myriad of pixels printed on the skin of the glass.

The building manages to integrate all the necessary functions while playing on the land's topography, and inviting daylight to penetrate through all the windows that open towards the landscape and the sky, making the design very simple, yet contemporary, with very low emission, yet with great comfort inside. The Music Chapel is fulfilling its ambition of being a leading musical training centre, with a special taste linked to European and Belgian roots, focusing on a worldwide 'masters and young musicians' environment, partnering with cultural organisations all around the world, including the NCPA and the Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI) this month. ■

Augustin Dumay, Elina Buksha and Miguel da Silva will perform with the SOI on 16th February at the Jamshed Bhabha Theatre and join artistes-in-residence of the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in recital on 18th February at the Tata Theatre.

ANNELIESE VARALDIEV (MIGUEL)