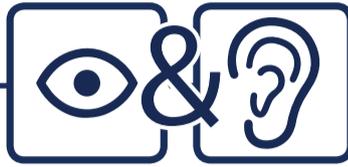




**OSM CAMERATA (OSMC) ODEION SCHOOL OF MUSIC, (UFS) SELECTED TO PERFORM & PARTICIPATE AT THE 13<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATORY FESTIVAL ST PETERSBURG (RUSSIA) NOVEMBER 2013**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpvvdRqREc>

▶ OSM CAMERATA (OSMC) at the ODEION SCHOOL OF MUSIC, (UFS) selected to perform & participate at the 13<sup>TH</sup> International Conservatory Festival St Petersburg (Russia) November 2013  
FMR Rodney Trudgeon interviews Marius Coetzee  
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OSM TV



After a successful audition the OSMC received an invitation to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conservatory Festival (<http://www.conservatory.ru/node/1660>) which will take place in St Petersburg Russia from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. The festival is a yearly highlight on the concert calendar of the prestigious Rimsky Korsakov Conservatoire.

The artistic panel of the festival under the auspices of Prof Lydia Volchek annually selects ten conservatories internationally (in the likes of the Tchaikovsky Conservatoire (Moscow), Conservatoire de Paris, Eastman School of Music NY and the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki Finland to name but a few) to gather in St Petersburg for the festival. The rector of the Rimsky Korsakov Conservatoire, Prof Mikhail Gantvarg stated that it will be the first school of music hailing from Africa to participate in the festival ever.



The OSMC was requested to give two recitals of 40 minutes each during the festival. Maestro Jan Moritz Onken (Chief Conductor of the OSMC for 2013) will lead the ensemble to St Petersburg; OSMC members will have the opportunity to attend all concerts presented by fellow participants and master classes presented by the masters of St Petersburg Conservatoire.

The festival is usually opened and closed with a grand concert presented by the St. Petersburg Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra (70 plus members). Last year the opening concert was conducted by the celebrated master Valery Gergiev (artistic director of the Mariinsky Opera and Symphony Orchestra) while the closing ceremony was conducted by Semyon Bychkov - reciting the Leningrad Symphony by Shostakovich. (Both Gergiev and Bychkov are alumni of the St Petersburg Conservatoire).

All recitals of the festival will be presented in Opera & Theatre Hall of the Conservatoire as well as the acclaimed Glazunov Concert Hall located within the colossal conservatory building.

The OSMC will recite a programme of mainly South African composers, with two new works commissioned by the **OSM NEW MUSIC INITIATIVE** from the prolific South African composer, Hendrik Hofmeyr ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hendrik\\_Hofmeyr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hendrik_Hofmeyr)); laureate of the Queen Elizabeth International Composition Competition entitled *Notturmo Elegiaco and Spokewals/Phantom Walz*. *Spokewals/Phantom Walz* is a challenging work where musicians simultaneously play, sing and speak. A reworked edition for chamber orchestra of the original string quartet for piano and soprano, *Liedere op Boesman Verse*, by revered South African composer, Stefans Grové ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefans\\_Grov%C3%A9](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefans_Grov%C3%A9)) will also be performed. To commemorate the centenary of composer Benjamin Britten this year, Cantus in Memoriam of Benjamin Britten by Arvo Pärt is also included in the programme.

After participation at the festival in St. Petersburg the ensemble will depart for a two day visit to Moscow where the OSMC will perform of "All South African" program.





## MAESTRO JAN MORITZ ONKEN APPOINTED AS CHIEF CONDUCTOR OF THE OSM CAMERATA (OSMC) FOR SEASON 2, 2013

Maestro Jan Moritz Onken, has been appointed as chief conductor of the OSMC for the second season of 2013 and will prepare the OSMC for their participation at the 13th International Conservatory Festival in St Petersburg in November this year. The next performance of the OSMC under the baton of Onken will take place during the second gala concert of the 2013 OSM NEW MUSIC WEEK on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 19h30 at the Odeion.

Born in 1977 in Wuppertal (Germany), Jan Moritz Onken spent his formative years as a student in orchestral conducting at the Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory under the tutelage of Prof Nikolai Alexeev. Onken received high praise from notable masters such as Pierre Boulez and Valery Gergiev for his "exceptional talent" during internships at the *Bayreuther Festspiele*, the *Mariinsky Theater* and the *Belcanto Festival* in Dordrecht (Netherlands).

In 2003 he worked as assistant to acclaimed maestro Mariss Jansons, whilst gaining international experience by conducting orchestras worldwide. A DAAD-grant has enabled him to lead the student symphony orchestras of the National Conservatoire of Almaty (Kazakhstan), St. Petersburg (Russia) and Tbilisi (Georgia). His success with above mentioned ensembles gained him recognition in the *New York Times*, *Verliner Tageszeitung*, *Spiegel*, *ZDF-Heute Journal*, *3sat Kulturzeit*, and *Deutsche Welle*. Onken has also received an award at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conducting Competition in Budapest (Hungary) in 2010. Since 2010 Jan is residing in St. Petersburg where he is working as a musical coach and assistant for German repertoire at the *Mariinsky Theater* (Valery Gergiev). In 2011 he was invited as a guest conductor at the *Verbier Festival*. Onken served as a jury adjudicator for the final round of the second National Len van Zyl Orchestral Conducting Competition which took place in Cape Town in February 2013. Onken made his debut in May 2013 with the St Petersburg Academic Symphony Orchestra to great acclaim.



Kazakh National Conservatory Symphony Orchestra  
Almaty - Le Sacre du Printemps; Igor Stravinsky  
(excerpt 3)

Conductor Jan Moritz Onken

Konzerthaus Berlin

<http://youtu.be/2zAUGbbqRQA>

Jan Moritz Onken in Concert - Le Sacre du  
Printemps; Igor Stravinsky (excerpt 1)

<http://youtu.be/tFZyRF9W3dw>

OSM TV: Elretha Britz - Volksblad Arts Editor,  
interviews Jan Moritz Onken

<http://youtu.be/yhgGF5mlbA>





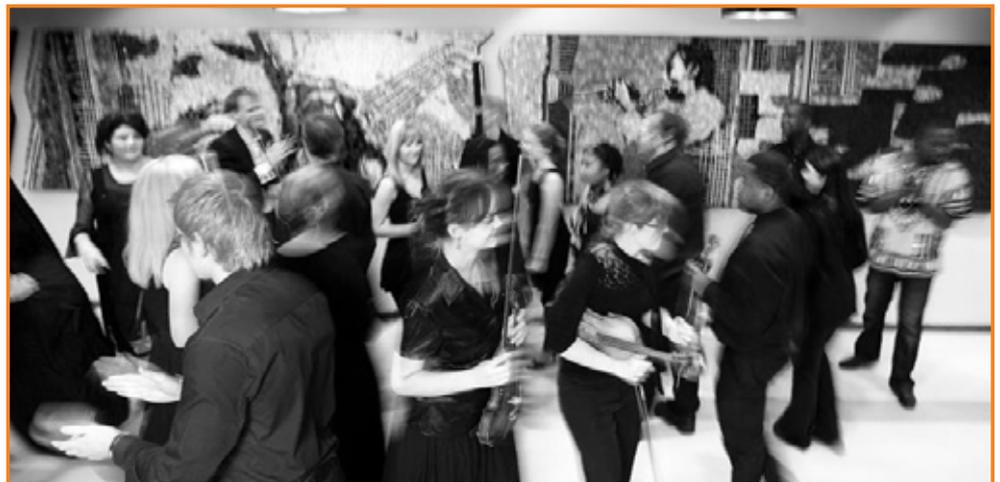
## OSM *camerata*



In 2012 the OSM found it strategically fit to establish a flagship chamber ensemble – the OSM Camerata (OSMC) – with the main objective to kindle and forge the talents of exceptionally gifted musicians and literally chasing after the highest artistic standards possible. Apart from competencies related to advanced musicianship, ensemble, mentorship, concert etiquette serious thought is given to the demands and roles of the professional orchestral player in example concertmaster, assistant concertmaster and principle player as well as professional procedures with regard to rehearsal procedures. Another objective is to introduce students and audiences alike to exceptional repertoire hailing from diverse style periods not often heard on South African stages. In future it might also be wise to enlighten students on the practical aspects regarding the professional labour market like knowledge about contracts, taxation, as well as aspects with reference to human resources and labour law.

It is a high priority to contract dynamic young professional conductors both internationally and locally. In context of the long term strategy of the OSM the idea is to erect an extended orchestral conducting chair. It is envisaged that both the OSMC and visiting conductors will be instrumental to facilitate the conducting modules and expose students to state of the art knowledge with regard to conducting technique, repertoire, rehearsal schedules programming and the application of progressive teaching methodologies.

The OSMC gave their first performance on 1 March 2012 as the Opening Concert of the OSM under the baton of Nicholas Nikolaidis. The OSMC is anticipated to serve as a feasible incubator to forge full rounded musicians thoroughly prepared for the demands of their trade as orchestral musicians and soloists. The aim for 2013 is to institutionalise the OSMC as a vehicle of excellence. In March 2013 the OSMC gave the world premiere of a work entitled Cello Concerto for an African cellist by composer Hans Huysen with South African cellist Heleen Du Plessis, currently lecturer of cello at the University of Otago in New Zealand.



### ENQUIRIES:

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