

ZEEUWS ORKEST

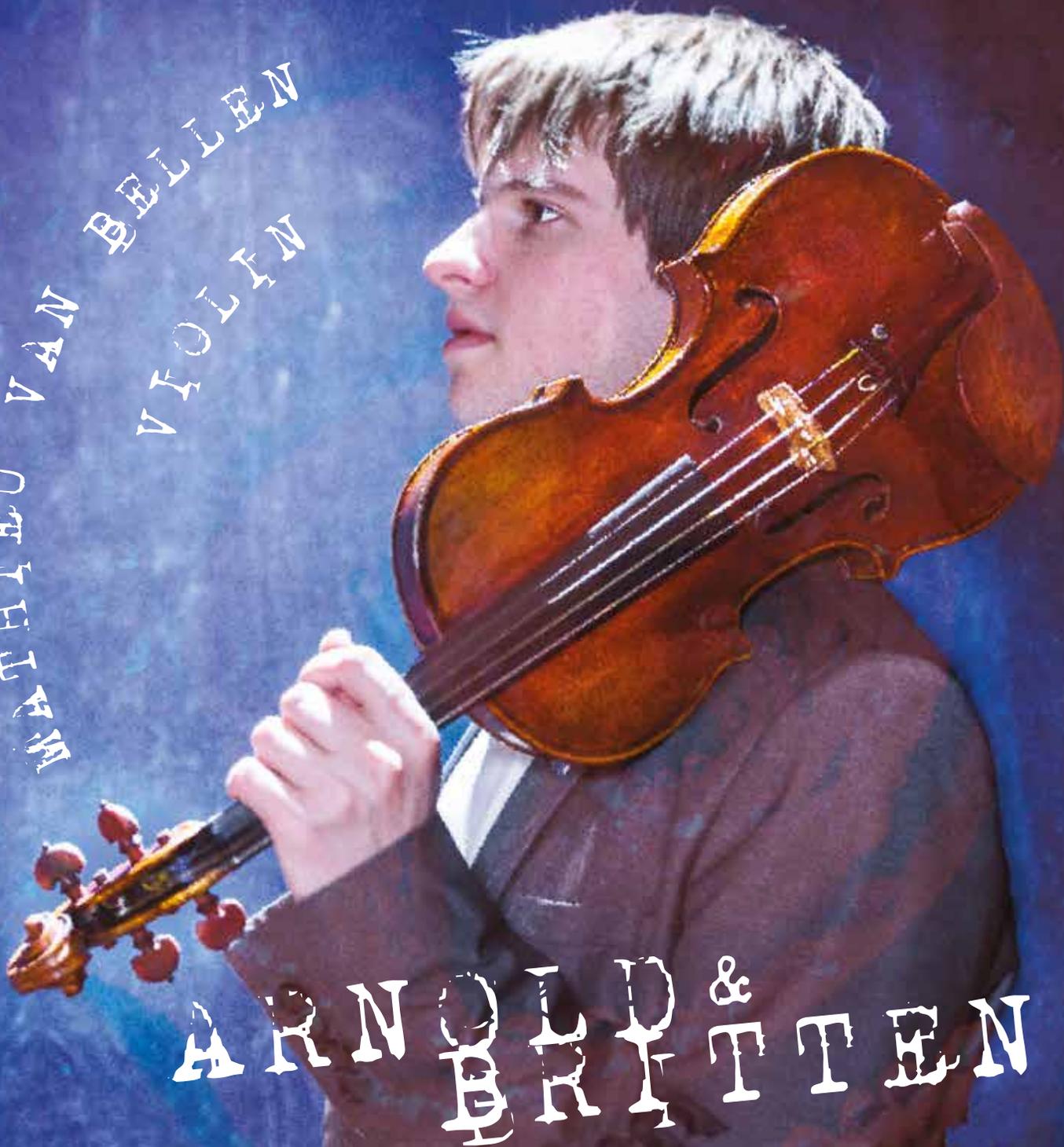
HEFT VAN MEYLIEMANS

MATTHIEU

VAN

BELLEN

VIOLIN



ARNOLD & TEN



Malcolm Arnold

The English composer, conductor and trumpeter Malcolm Arnold [1921 - 2006] was the trumpeter at the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra during the 2nd World War.

After the war he fully committed himself to composing music. He wrote solo works for, among others, piano, violin, clarinet, oboe and horn, nine symphonies for orchestra, works for harmonic orchestras and brass bands, ballet music and film music. Especially by the latter, Arnold is best known to the general public. He received an Oscar in 1958 for the film music of "The Bridge over the River Kwai".

One year before, Arnold wrote "Four Scottish Dances" inspired by Scottish folk songs and dances. Each of the four parts [Pesante - Vivace - Allegretto - Con brio] has its own pace, vibe and character. The music is light and cheerful and sometimes with a wink. Of his popular work, there have also been made adaptations for harmonic orchestras and brass bands.

Benjamin Britten

Benjamin Britten [1913-1976] was an English composer, conductor and pianist. He took an important place among the classical English composers of the 20th century. He wrote works for orchestras and choirs including opera, chamber and film music. Among his best-known works are the War Requiem, the opera Peter Grimes and The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. Britten was highly appreciated as a pianist and conductor; He played and conducted a lot of his works himself. He also made countless recordings.

Britten completed in 1939 a 3-piece violin concert. It is characterized by virtuoso passages and lyrics. Without any doubt, this work reflects the great concern of Britten about the situation in the world, the increasing hostilities in Europe and Asia. In 1940, the work had its premiere in America, the country where Britten composed the work.



After the war, the work was seldom played. In recent years it has gained a lot of popularity, partly due to beautiful recordings by Maxim Vengerov and Janine Jansen.

Soloist at the Zeeland Orchestra is the violinist Matthieu van Bellen from Hulst, who has been a frequent guest at the orchestra, including for the well-known violin concert of Tsjaikovsky.

Mathieu van Bellen

The violinist Matthieu van Bellen from Hulst, is a soloist at the Zeeland Orchestra and is a frequent guest at the orchestra, including for the well-known violin concert of Tsjaikovsky. Mathieu van Bellen [1988] began his violin studies in Belgium with Nico Baltussen, and continued his education at Jan Repko at the Amsterdam Conservatory and Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. This study was made possible by a scholarship of the De VandenEnde Foundation in Amsterdam. In London, he studied at Itzhak Rashkovsky, and in Berlin at the Hochschule für Musik at Ulf Wallin.

He was a laureate of the International Yehudi Menuhin Competition and the Wieniawski Competition and in the Netherlands of the Prinses Christina Concours and the Oskar Back Competition. He also won the MBF, RPS Emily Anderson Prize, the Philharmonia Martin Musical Scholarship Funds Awards and Making Music Awards. Next to that, he also won the Bach Prize and became String Player of the Year 2008 at the Royal College of Music.

Mathieu gave concerts in Europe, Asia and the US and played at major music festivals such as the Festspiele MV in Germany and participated in the Chamber Music Festivals throughout Europe. He performed in several radio and television programs, including the Prinsengrachtconcert 2016, and played in halls such as the Purcell Room at the Southbank Center, the Royal Festival Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Tel Aviv Opera House and the Megaron Athena where he played with the National Orchestra of Belgium, the Holland Symphony Orchestra, the Southbank Sinfonia and the Camerata Athena.



Mathieu van Bellen

A large, close-up profile photograph of a young man with light-colored hair, looking intently at his violin. The violin is held in front of him, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and purple.

Mathieu is an active chamber musician. He has worked together with Shlomo Mintz, Miguel da Silva, Michael Collins and Bruno Giuranna for chamber music concerts. In 2014, he founded the Scaldis Chamber Music Festival, which takes place every year in May in Zeeland, the birthplace of Mathieu. The first CD of Mathieu was released in November 2014, with solo works of Bach, Christian Blaha and Béla Bartók. In the same year he was a concertmaster of the European Youth Orchestra led by Vasily Petrenko and Vladimir Ashkenazy, with amongst others, concerts in the Proms in London and in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

In 2015 Mathieu won the Grachtenfestival Prize Amsterdam, making him Artist in Residence in 2016. In 2017 he gave his first full recital in the Little Hall of the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and was a soloist at the Dutch Student Orchestra led by Jurjen Hempel, with concerts throughout the country in halls such as Doelen Rotterdam, Vredenburg Utrecht and Concertgebouw Amsterdam.

Van Bellen is a violinist in the acclaimed Busch trio. This trio won the prestigious Anton Kersjes Prize in 2016 and they gave concerts in Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw at 't IJ Amsterdam, BOZAR, Flagey in Brussels and Wigmore Hall in London. They are Artist in Residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel at Waterloo. Mathieu van Bellen was named in 2017 as Artistic Director of Reizend Muziek Gezelschap, as a successor to Christiaan Bor.

Mathieu van Bellen plays on the ex-Adolf Busch G.B. Guadagnini violin (Turin 1783) and with a straw of Dominique Peccatte, given to him by private sponsors, for which he is very grateful.



Principal conductor Ivan Meylemans

Ivan Meylemans (1971), a Belgian conductor, studied at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague with Ed Spanjaard and Jac van Steen, where he graduated in 2001. In the years thereafter, he participated with success in various international conductor competitions. He won the international contest "Vahktang Jordania" in Kharkov (Ukraine) and became 3rd laureate in the renowned Donatella Flick contest in London where he conducted the London Symphony Orchestra with "The Miraculous Mandarin" of Bartók.

From that moment on, he developed his career very rapidly with guest conducting projects at almost all orchestras in the Netherlands and Belgium, the philharmonic orchestras of Taipei, Seoul, Zagreb, Dortmund, Copenhagen, Luxembourg and the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie.

From 2007 to 2012, he was the principal conductor at "The Chamber Orchestra" and until 2014, he acted as the assistant conductor on the side of Mariss Jansons.

In 2012, Ivan Meylemans debuted as an opera conductor with the celebrated production "Manon" by Jules Massenet at Opera Zuid. In the years thereafter he was invited to the productions Carmen (Bizet) and Die Fledermaus (J. Strauss).

Meylemans is currently a frequent guest conductor at the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonie Zuidnederland, the SWR Sinfonieorchester (Stuttgart), Kymi Sinfonietta (Finland), Gävle Symphony Orchestra (Sweden).

Since 2014, he has been a lecturer and conductor at the LUCA School of Arts (Leuven) and in 2015 he was appointed as principal conductor at The Zeeland Orchestra in Middelburg.





Ivan Meylemans



The Zeeland Orchestra

The Zeeland Orchestra originates from the "Vereeniging voor Instrumentale Muziek", founded in 1888 in Middelburg with 14 strings. At its 25th anniversary, they counted with 20 strings. For years, the "Instrumentale" was an association for generally wealthy persons of Middelburg. "Only in Middelburg residing gentlemen can attend the concerts for free, ladies cards cost one guilders and visits from elsewhere were not initially stimulated. Gentlemen living outside Middelburg must pay two guilders entrance". This amateur string orchestra expanded over time. Players of wind instruments were added and the amateurs received support from professional musicians. In 1970, "de Instrumentale" and the "Zeeuws Kamerorkest" merged to the present Zeeland Orchestra. Then the orchestra also gives concerts in the region.

By attracting good conductors, the quality of the orchestra gets better. The requirements for the amateurs are increased. All of this has resulted in a semi-professional symphony orchestra that is making music at a high level. The orchestra consists of maximum 20 amateurs and 60 professional musicians. Soloists of national and international fame make an important contribution to these concerts. The Zeeland Orchestra regularly offers a stage for young talent. For example, the violinist Mathieu van Bellen from Zeeland was a very young soloist at the "Zeeland Orchestra".

In addition to classical concerts, there is a regular adventurous and innovative programming. The New Year's concerts are a great success with soloists like Karin Bloemen and Carel Kraayenhof. Under the very inspiring leadership of principal conductor Ivan Meylemans, the orchestra gives concerts an extra dimension through the pleasure that the orchestra members have when playing music.

The Zeeland Orchestra takes a very important cultural role in the society of Zeeland.



HET ZEEUWS ORKEST



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Credits

Live recording 16th october 2016
at the Zeeuwse Concertzaal Middelburg.

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Special thanks to:

Vrienden van Het Zeeuws Orkest

Het Zeeuws Orkest: Arnold & Britten

Ivan Meylemans - Conductor

Mathieu van Bellen - Violin



Malcom Arnold - Four Scottish Dances

1) No. 1 Pesante	2:03
2) No. 2 Vivace	2:11
3) No. 3 Allegretto	3:07
4) No. 4 Con brio	1:40

Benjamin Britten - Concerto for Violin and Orchestra*

5) Moderato con moto	10:11
6) Vivace	8:40
7) Passacaglia, Andante lento	15:13
Total Time	43:05

**Mathieu van Bellen - violin*

Live recording