



European Skryabin Society

Europees Skryabin Genootschap

Midwoud, 23 may 2018

To those who are interested in the European Skryabin Society:

Excuse me, that you haven't heard much from me during the last two years, caused by problems among the board members. In the meantime and through my move from the Rosa Spier House in Laren, to Midwoud in the North of North Holland, a lot of things has intervned. As far as those board member problems are concerned; when I moved from secretary / treasurer to vice-chairman, a retired bank director joined the board as a treasurer and someone from the Steinway center in Alkmaar as secretary.

These governors saw our society as a nice leisure time, but when they were appointed, they stopped attending board meetings, which were about solving our financial problems through European subsidies and other income. It took a long time before it became really clear for us. Then I asked the attended board members to resign. Then someone came on the board who became secretary / treasurer, but who also didn't want to do anything in that position. This also took a lot of time and damaged our annual recital planning.

Meanwhile I am temporarily secretary / treasurer (ad interim) and have taken up the planning: Soon I will have a telephone consultation with the director of the Hermitage, about our registered establishment in Amsterdam, we then (hopefully) will move from the Geelvinck-Hinlopen Huis Museum to the Hermitage-dependence from St Petersburg, on the Amstel in Amsterdam. They also have a small concert hall with a good grand piano there, so hopefully we can restart our annual four season recitals.

Furthermore, our society has been in consultation with the Skryabin Museum in Moscow and the Bulgarian Skryabin Society for a long period. Currently, this consultation is about an international celebration with a major festival, in response to Skryabin's 150th birth year, in 2022. It is our intention the Bulgarian Symphony Orchestra from Sofia, will perform all symphonic works by Skryabin in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, hopefully under the guidance of the internationally renowned Skryabin conductor Kees Bakels. At the Prometheus symphony (hopefully with color light) the Russian Skryabin specialist Evgeni Mikhailov could perform the obligatory piano part. He also participated in our small Festival in Amsterdam at the 'Geelvinck Hinlopen Huis Museum' as part of the commemoration of the 100th year of the death of Skryabin (2015).

The piano concert of Skryabin contains the Bulgarian / Dutch pianist Marietta Petkova at our wish list.

Furthermore, I am currently working with the author of the book 'Diva', (subtitled) 'portraits of famous and notorious singers', Joost Galema, to discuss the writing of a new book about Skryabin and the formation of the Skryabin Society(s), to publish and present on January 6, 2022 (Skryabin's 150th birthday).

We will also try to program many of our pianist connections in the 'Kleine Zaal' of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw" and (if possible) also in the Hermitage, Among those connections are Maria Lettberg and Håkon Austbø. In addition, we want to set up an exhibition in collaboration with the Skryabin Museum in Moscow at the Hermitage.

Anyway, Skryabin, who once played in the Amsterdam 'Concertgebouw', on the initiative of the conductor Willem Mengelberg, hopefully in 2022 (if possible with financial support from the European Commission) will make Amsterdam buzzing with its complete and dazzling oeuvre, as in old times. The undersigned and my chairman really hope that this will all work out!

The Netherlands, Midwoud, May 19, 2018,
Rolf KNAP.