



12 Januarie 2017

HERMAN BERGMAN ENSEMBLE

***Meestervolle Musici speel saam in Afrika inspirasie
"Mahai" deur Herman Bergman***



Die GMS begin die jaar met die aanbieding van twee opwindende gebeure in Januarie 2017. 'n Klassieke Kitar Werkswinkel word aangebied deur kitaarspeler en -dosent, Charl Lamprecht op 27 Jan 2017. (Registrasie en ander besonderhede ivm die GMS werkswinkel is onder aan hierdie brief).

Die "Herman Bergman Ensemble" bied op 28 Januarie 2017 die gewilde "Mahai" konsert in George aan, waarin Charl Lamprecht dan optree as een van die uitvoerende kunstenaars. Herman Bergman, die komponis van "Mahai" en kitaarspeler, het verskeie SAMA nominasies vir sy eie komposisies en uitvoerings ontvang, en sy splinternuwe "Mahai Program" het reeds uitmuntende resensies ontlok. Die ensemble bestaan verder uit Werner Bessinger, (kitaarspeler & -bouer), kontrabas speler, Waldemar van Wyk van Knysna, en perkussie speler Prieur du Plessis van George. Meer inligting ivm die uiteenlopende kunstenaars word in die Engelse gedeelte gegee.

Kaartjies en registrasie kan ook gedoen word by "The Office", George, Precap Centre, Courtenay St., langs die "Mini Pick en Pay".



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Masterful musician meets African inspiration Mahai by Herman Bergman



Two times *South African Music Award (SAMA)* finalist, Herman Bergman (a.k.a. Herman van den Berg) together with Charl Lamprecht and Werner Bessinger present *Mahai*, a collection of original, newly composed instrumental guitar music. They will be teaming up with local musicians Waldemar van Wyk and Prieur du Plessis for concerts in George and Stilbaai. The GMS concert is at the Arts Theatre on Saturday 28 January at 19h30.

After its release in 2016, the album *Mahai* was received with great enthusiasm: Classic FM has playlisted 8 tracks off the album, Fine Music Radio featured it as album of the week, Morning Live featured the album on TV with a live performance and the album has received rave reviews, e.g.

- “This album leaves one breathless upon first hearing. The strongest element coming through immediately is a kind of minimalism; the compositions, stark in their simplicity, have a rigid backbone of every note in ‘just the right place’. To my mind the greatest achievement any composer can muster up is that sense of familiarity that stirs your inner spirit. saying: ‘But I know this from somewhere’. Bergman is indeed the kind of gifted composer who seems to manage this effortlessly.” – Willem Vogel, Brooklyn Theater and Salon Music Director.
- “This album is of the highest quality, full of emotion and enjoyable. The depths can be found in the string expressions of South African landscapes” – Ronel Nel, Rooi Rose

The music is loaded with emotional weight and atmosphere, the memories and nostalgia giving this easy listening, classical-crossover instrumental music a heft beyond its sonic textures.

The musicians

Herman Bergman (composer and guitarist; Johannesburg) is a two-times *South African Music Award* finalist who has released 5 albums with original Afrikaans music, written 3 musicals, written music for two TV series (Binnelanders and Kampituit), composes for international music libraries and has been involved as producer and musician in a variety of other, smaller projects. He was also involved in a project to translate Jacques Brel's music into Afrikaans which was recorded on two albums and performed at various venues throughout Belgium and Netherlands. Mahai is his latest project, focussing on instrumental guitar music.

Charl Lamprecht (guitarist; Pretoria) is a classical guitar lecturer at University of Pretoria, UNISA (part time) and Pro Arte music school (full time) in Pretoria. He also currently conducts classical guitar technique workshops. He was the first student at the University of Pretoria to complete his B.Mus (with distinction) with Classical Guitar as primary instrument.

Werner Bessinger (guitarist and luthier; Pretoria) is a self-taught guitarist, but has shared the stage with guitar legends like Mauritz Lotz, Nathan Smith and Luke van der Merwe. He is also a renowned luthier, receiving his training in Spain and Indonesia.

Waldemar van Wyk (double bass; Knysna) is the founder of the Knysna Jazz Quartet, Bomvu and Skanky Corp. His collaborations and support acts include Paul Simon, Jonny Clegg, Wendy Oldfield and Siphon Gumede. He was also a member of Jazz Pigs in the USA and the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra. Currently he also runs a recording studio.

Prieur du Plessis (percussion; George) is a drummer and percussionist who has played with musicians like Elvis Blue and Karin Zoid.

The Mahai Project

Mahai is a proudly South African venture – one far beyond the scope of that cliched branding tag. Locally designed recording equipment was used, the guitars played (classical and steel string acoustic) were made by South African luthiers, and Bergman's musical partners for the project are fellow home-grown musicians. More information regarding this project can be seen on Mahai – YouTube.

The album is named for a campsite at Royal Natal National Park in South Africa's majestic Drakensberg Mountains, nestling, in Bergman's words, "between a lively mountain stream and an avenue of ancient pine trees." For him, the place evokes beauty, piercing, crisp light, the smell of campfires and the sound of friendship.

Tickets can be reserved at "The Office", George, Precap Centre, Courtenay St., (Next to the Mini Pick & Pay).

For more information contact Henk at 083 414 0350 or Sandra at 044 8730201

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GMS Classical Guitar Workshop



A **Classical Guitar Workshop** will be facilitated by **Charl Lamprecht**, on **Friday 27 January 2017 from 14:30 to 17:00** at “Dis Tyd”, **23 Montagu St., George**. Beginners through advanced classical guitar enthusiasts, teachers and lovers of music, will play together in a group during a 2 hour fun workshop, via guidance of **Charl Lamprecht**, famous classical guitar lecturer at the Pro-Arte School for the Arts, and the Music Department at the University of Pretoria. Charl is one of the guitarists who will play at the Arts Theatre in the Herman Bergman Ensemble’s “Mahai” Concert, hosted by the GMS during the same weekend.

This interactive workshop will be taught in a friendly environment, while easy guitar-ensemble pieces will be played in a group according to different skill levels. Classical guitar techniques will be covered with specific reference to right hand finger techniques and finger coordination exercises, such as Spanish Rasgado playing, arpeggio-patterns and tremolo techniques. General discussions, sharing of knowledge and support around classical guitar playing will be encouraged.

Recommended entry level: Able to play Chords of E, Am & D, as well as any one octave scale - Does not need to read music.

Please bring along: Proof of Workshop Registration; Nylon string/ classical / Spanish guitar; footstool & music stand & pencil

R100/person - Limited spaces available

Please pre-register at The Office - Precap Centre, 30 Courtenay St, George - liezel@theofficegeorge.co.za ; 044 8733143