



Pamela Smits

— cello

‘Ms. Pamela Smits is an exceptionally talented cellist and musician.’

JANOS STARKER, CELLIST

‘...I consider (Ms. Pamela Smits) one of the most dedicated and musically gifted cellist in her generation.’

TSUYOSHI TSUTSUMI, CELLIST

‘...he (Tobias Borsboom) does whatever he wants, associations and connections appear as if by magic. Isn't that synonymous with sorcery?’

OPUSKLASSIEK





Cellist Pamela Smits has received wide acclaim for her phenomenal command of technique and expression, and for her distinctive musical presence and charisma. She enjoys a varied career, which combines appearances as a cello soloist, chamber musician and educator.

Pamela Smits – cello

‘Her phenomenal technical expertise and overwhelming musicality impressed the audience in this far from easily accessible work.’
[Kox - cello concerto]

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...Pamela Smits possesses a full-bodied tone and (has) a strong emotional expressivity... Smits delivered pure soulful expression..’

[concert Chopin-Gesellschaft]
[DARMSTÄDTER ECHO, GERMANY](#)

‘Pamela Smits is superb... with a clear mastery of her instrument, excellent intonation and a deep expression in her performance.’

[PHOENIX CLASSICAL, CANADA](#)

‘Pamela Smits herself transforms the tone of her instrument inkeeping with the piece at hand, and finds its emotional nucleus.’

[CLASSICAL MUSIC SENTINAL, USA](#)

‘Rousing music making at the Akademie für Tonkunst.

Ottawa-born cellist Pamela Smits stood out with enthralling temperament and beautiful tone.’

[DARMSTÄDTER ECHO, GERMANY](#)

‘Explicit joyfulness

..with pronounced joyful playing. With a lightness, that only absolute technically accomplished musicians can achieve..’

[DIE REINISCHE POST, GERMANY](#)

‘For she plunges the listener into an alternating bath of emotions, excites and calms, shocks with her sudden dissociative changes. With her sensitive approach to playing Pamela Smits showed herself to be more than a match for the refined virtuosity of it.’

[Ligeti solo sonata]

[SÜDTHÜRINGISCHE ZEITUNG, GERMANY](#)

‘Exceptional artistic duo from the Netherlands enchanted the Church.

...a musical drama with “goose bumps”, a thriller: exciting and dramatic at times; fresh, light and alive at others, sounds in search of peace. Pamela Smits elicited from her cello unforgettable tones that got under the skin...

What the artist duo presented was not merely a concert of the classical kind, but Character turned into music, sparkling and inspiring, as if the musical pair wanted to make the stars dance.’

[HAANER TREFF, GERMANY](#)

‘Sparkling piano sounds, singing cello tones in the fantastic interplay of soloists Pamela Smits and Tobias Borsboom. Smits and Borsboom captivated their audience in every piece of music, showing technical skill paired with sensitivity. Floating, tender, yearning and longing traversed the church nave... Booming applause, standing ovations.’

[DIE RHEINISCHE POST, GERMANY](#)

‘They enchanted with their playing - at times with fireworks, at others with subtle interpretation, and at other moments with intimate tenderness. Two poets of the keys and strings had found each other.’

[WESTDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, GERMANY](#)



Proposed Recital Programs

Other combinations of works, or programs are open for consideration!

Pamela and Tobias also introduce each piece presented on the program with a short verbal explanation.



Heaven and Hell

Program for Unaccompanied Cello with music that showcases the many shades of human emotions between heaven and hell: from prayer and dance-like celebrations, to the pain and sufferings Dante Alighieri describes so astutely in his book the Divine Comedy.

Kodály's monumental solo sonata is perhaps the first major work for unaccompanied cello after Bach's six great Suites (the 'Holy Grail' for cellists) of almost 200 years earlier.

J.S. Bach	One of the Suites for cello solo
Giovanni Sollima	Hell 1. Songs from the Divine Comedy
Gaspar Cassadó	Suite per violoncello

– INTERMISSION –

Zoltán Kodály	Sonata opus 8
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(DURATION: 38 MIN BEFORE AND 32 MIN AFTER INTERMISSION)



Love and Death

Many of the greatest works of music owes its origin to two cornerstones of life: love and death. And they are very often intertwined and used as a source of inspiration. This program leads from simple musical flirtations to works that contain the full depth of feelings over a lifetime.

L. van Beethoven	12 Variations in F major on 'Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen' from Mozart's die Zauberflöte
Franz Schubert	Arpeggione Sonata in A minor, D 821
Franz Liszt	Romance Oubliée
Gaspar Cassadó	Requiebros

– INTERMISSION –

Franz Liszt	La lugubre gondola
Frédéric Chopin	Sonata in G minor Op. 65

(DURATION: 38 MIN BEFORE AND 34 MIN AFTER INTERMISSION.)

Tobias Borsboom is currently one of the Netherlands' most notable young pianists. A concert by Pamela, and her superb recital partner pianist Tobias Borsboom, offers a memorable experience of musical intensity.

'Romantic voyager who really makes you ponder.

In the universe of pianist Tobias Borsboom notes evoke many words and images. And as good art should do, Borsbooms' story does not only lead to listening, but also to reflection.'

NRC NEWSPAPER, NL



Bohemian Rhapsody

What makes so much Czech music so irresistible? Is it the charm of the innocent and open-eyed inner child? Or perhaps the fairy-tale magic, spooky and dark atmospheres, and melodies rooted in folk music and dances from Bohemia and Moravia at the time...

Leoš Janáček	Pohádka (fairytale)
Bohuslav Martinů	Variations on a theme by Rossini
Antonín Dvořák	Waldesruhe from the Bohemian Forrest Opus 68
Antonín Dvořák	Rondo in G minor, opus 94
– INTERMISSION –	
Josef Suk	Ballada and Serenade, opus 3
Antonín Dvořák	Polonaise in A major B.94
Bohuslav Martinů	Sonata for cello and piano no. 1

(DURATION: 35 MIN BEFORE AND 36 MIN AFTER INTERMISSION.)

Maître et Apprenti

French music in a concert that follows the line of master to pupil from Saint-Saëns to Fauré to Ravel, Boulanges and Enescu. A program full of French romanticism, Yiddish prayer songs, twinkling stars across the melancholic Parisian sky, and playful virtuosity.

C. Saint-Saëns	Sonata for cello and piano no. 1 in C minor opus 32
Gabriel Fauré	Romance in A major opus 69
Maurice Ravel	Deux mélodies hébraïques
– INTERMISSION –	
Nadia Boulanger	Trois pièces pour cello et piano
Gabriel Fauré	Sonata for cello and piano nr. 2 in G minor opus 117
George Enescu	Nocturne and Saltarello

(DURATION: 30 MIN BEFORE AND 34 MIN AFTER INTERMISSION)

‘Borsboom’s technical control and his grasp of all the various style ranges is admirable.’

VOLKSKRANT, NL

‘A strikingly individual and immensely colourful playing style... an exhilarating pause, a dynamic turn, a gripping acceleration. (He) fascinates to the final moments.’

LEEWARDER COURANT, NL

‘..in which he makes a wonderful impression of his versatility, from fireworks to poetry.’ [Liszt Fantasy]

HAARLEMS DAGBLAD, NL

More about Pamela...

'Smits's technical wizardry is nothing short of amazing, but it's secured in service to an equally instinctive musicality.'

-AMERICAN FANFARE MAGAZINE,
USA

Canadian born, Dutch cellist Pamela Smits has toured extensively throughout Europe and elsewhere, performing in the United States, South America, the Antilles, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Israel, and Finland. She gave recitals in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Meistersaal in Berlin, and at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. As a soloist she's appeared with orchestras on both sides of the Atlantic, performing cello concertos by C.Ph.E. Bach, Beethoven's Triple Concerto, Boccherini, Gulda, Händel for 2 cellos, Haydn, Hans Kox, Schumann, Tchaikovsky's Roco Variations, and Vivaldi for violin & cello.

Pamela has several world-premières to her name. In 2013 she gave the world-première of the 2nd cello solo sonata by

Hans Kox dedicated to her, and in 2014 the world-première of the Requiem *Infinite Compassion* by Dutch composer Frank van Gompel for cello solo, choir and orchestra, specially written for her.

'The Sonata, dedicated to her, fits her like a glove: musical extremes that demand great technical skill.. The soulful playing of Smits inexorably impresses that despair upon the listener...The last movement provides ample scope to Smits' intuitive almost improvising way of playing.'

HAARLEMS DAGBLAD, NL

In 2010 Pamela was invited for three seasons by the Posthuis Theater in Heerenveen (NL) to create her own annual series of 7 concerts with additional masterclasses, where she performed with acclaimed artists like violinist Isabelle van Keulen and trumpettist Peter Masseurs. Pamela is Founder (2013) and Artistic Director of the concert series *Vriendenconcerten* in Amsterdam. She has recorded several CDs; *All-time Favourites* with pianist Maarten den Hengst, *Die Todesfrau* by composer Hans Kox with flautist Abbie de Quant and the Netherlands Chamber Choir, *Felix Austria* and *The French Cello* with pianist Sabine Simon, and will record a CD with Tobias Borsboom in 2018 to include Liszt pieces and Kodály Sonata for Solo Cello. In 2008 she taught a masterclass as a demonstration via a

high speed internet connection in collaboration with Internet2, INHolland and the New World Symphony in Miami Beach. She has given masterclasses in Germany, the United States and the Netherlands, for venues such as at Duke University and the Akademie für Tonkunst in Darmstadt. For 4 year she was the cello and chamber music teacher of an international summer course at the Landesmusikakademie Hessen in Schlitz, Germany. Having taught since the age of 16, she also served as a teaching assistant to Jiří Prchal at the Stedelijk Conservatory Leeuwarden for three years.

From 1994 to 1997, she was principal cellist of the New World Symphony in Miami, directed by Michael Tilson Thomas.

She studied with Czech cellist Jiří Prchal at Stedelijk Conservatory Leeuwarden, with Jean Decroos (principal cellist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra at the time) at Sweelinck Conservatory Amsterdam, and with Janos Starker at Indiana University, Bloomington (USA). She participated in summer courses and masterclasses given by Anner Bylisma, Natalia Gutman, Lynn Harrell, Steven Isserlis, Ivan Monighetti, Miloš Sádlo, Paul Tortelier, Saša Večtomov, and the renowned pianist/teacher György Sebök in Ernen, Switzerland.



More about Tobias...

'I'm a romanticist, as a pianist and as a human being. I know the desire to wander, always curious, with an open look for the unknown.'

TOBIAS BORSBOOM

Tobias Borsboom is one of the Netherlands' most prominent young pianists, performing extensively both as soloist and in other capacities. His breakthrough came when he was awarded twice for the prestigious Dutch Classical Talent Award in 2015. In 2015 he toured all the major concert halls of the Netherlands as a soloist in Gershwin's Piano Concerto with the Dutch Student Orchestra conducted by Quintin Clare, and recently he toured in Poland and Indonesia with his solo recital program *Wanderer*.

'He plays... with great grace, plentiful drama and an astonishingly gentle touch of the piano.'

TROUW NEWSPAPER, (NL)

Tobias is a highly sought after pianist on many stages and



festivals such as The International Holland Music Sessions, the Storioni Festival, the International Chamber Music Festival Utrecht, the Uitgast festival, My First Festival and the International Holland Music Sessions. His solo recitals reveal his interest in contemporary music and his debut album *Wanderer* (Label 7 Mountains, 2017) has received great acclaim in the press and media.

'Borsboom is a reflective pianist, especially in Chopins Nocturne No. 4, in which he lets the felt stroke the strings.'

VOLKSKRANT NEWSPAPER (NL)

'(...) we find ourselves in a fantastical and contrastive world that does justice to the great pianistic qualities of Borsboom (...) he does whatever he wants, associations and

connections appear as if by magic. Isn't that synonymous with sorcery?'

OPUSKLASSIEK, NL

Tobias shows himself to be a versatile musician, who has well earned his stripes in the chamber music world. In previous years Tobias was a prize winner in competitions such as the Concertgebouw Entree Kamermuziek Concours, the Princess Christina Concours, and the YPF Piano Competition, where he also won a prize for best interpretation of a Dutch work.

He completed his master's degree at the Conservatory of Amsterdam in 2013 with renowned teacher Jan Wijn. Prior to this, he studied at the Young Talent Department of the Utrecht Conservatory with Paolo Giacometti. He followed master classes with internationally renowned musicians such as Maria João Pires, Klaus Hellwig, Georg Friedrich Schenck, Geoffrey Douglas Madge and Jan Boguslaw Stobel. Along with his busy concert life, Tobias Borsboom works at the Amsterdam Conservatory as Professor *Correpetitor*.

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