

## World première Stravinsky's Les Noces

August & September 2009

The performances of **Svadebka! The Village wedding** which take place in Augustus and September during a tour of The Netherlands, can be seen in Amsterdam, Utrecht, The Hague and Electra in Groningen. The performances in the Hermitage in Amsterdam are nearly sold out.



Ninety years after its conception the 1919 version of Stravinsky's Les Noces will finally be performed in a recently completed and approved version. After a long procedure, the Stravinsky heirs have recently granted permission for the 1919 version of Les Noces to be completed, resulting in the long awaited fulfillment of artistic director Peppie Wiersma's dream.

In 1919 Igor Stravinsky started his second draft of Svadebka (Les Noces) in an instrumentation for the unusual scoring of pianola, two cimbaloms, harmonium and percussion. He finished the first two tableaux and then, due to problems with synchronization with the pianola and the unavailability of two good cimbalom players, abandoned this version. It took him four years to finish the final score for 4 piano's and six percussions. The version of 1919 has since never been finished even though it offers great possibilities for a much more appropriate staging than the 1923 version with it's 4 grand piano's and large percussion set-up.

The idea arose to re-create the 1919 version and to instrumentate the last two tableaux. With its small band-like appearance and twangy Balkan cimbalom sound the 1919 seems ideal to create a real village wedding atmosphere. The balance problems that almost always occur in the 1923 version would be easily solved and the choir could be much smaller and take part of the theatrical action.

This staged version of "The Wedding" will be performed out in the open air, as a real village wedding, whereby the audience will be invitees to the wedding feast, sitting at long tables and eating and drinking while watching the feast unroll. Scherzo à la russe (in a new arrangement by Louis Andriessen!) will be played as an overture and Stravinsky's Soldiers Tale performed as entertainment for the guests. The singers and musicians will take part in the theatrical action and all the music will be sung by heart. All the musicians have an outstanding reputation in chamber music as well as being established as soloists in their own right, playing with many well known orchestras and contemporary ensembles such as the ASKO-Schoenberg ensemble, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Ensemble Modern, MusikFabrik and the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra. Cappella Amsterdam will provide an excellent choice of highly skilled singers.

### Amsterdam

15 (première), 16, 17 & 18 August 2009

### Utrecht

22 en 23 August 2009

### Den Haag

29 & 30 August 2009

### Electra (Groningen) 2009

5 & 6 September

[www.svadebka.nl](http://www.svadebka.nl)

For further information and reservations please visit our website.

If you are interested in booking *Svadebka! The Village Wedding* for the tour in 2010 - 2011, please get in touch with: Peppie Wiersma, Artistic director. Her email address can be found on the website: [www.svadebka.nl](http://www.svadebka.nl)