

# ALGARVE HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2020

**FRIDAY 24 at 11h00 Tavira Library**

***The Tristan Chord: Wagner's Crucial Role  
in the development of modern music  
with Kolja Meeuwsen***

**SUNDAY 26 at 16h00**

**€ 25**

**Nikola Meeuwsen**

**music by Bach-Busoni, W A Mozart,  
Bach-Hess and Schumann**

**TUESDAY 28 at 18h00 Lagoa Library**

**FRIDAY 31 at 11h00 Tavira Library**

***Famous Portuguese***

**with Peter Kingdon Booker**

**PREVIEW FOR FEBRUARY**

**TUESDAY 18 at 18h00 (Lagoa) and**

**FRIDAY 28 at 11h00 (Tavira)**

***The History of International Police  
Cooperation***

**with David Thomas**

## **The Tristan Chord: Wagner's Crucial Role in the Development of Modern Music**

Algarve History Association breaks new ground with its talk on in Tavira. For the first time, we have a current composer to address us. Dutch composer and musician Kolja Meeuwsen will give a talk based on the Leonard Bernstein's Harvard Lecture *The Tristan Chord*. In this lecture Kolya will explain how Wagner found this chord, which paved the way for the development of the twelve-tone school. He will show that Wagner's music was crucial in the development of the music of the twentieth century. At a young age, Kolja Meeuwsen became interested in music and collections of old records, especially those of historically famous violinists. His passion resulted in a house full of gramophone records, but we do not know how his parents reacted. He went on to study Music History and Musicology at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in the Hague, where he took his degree in *The Early Music of the Violin and Viola*. He now also teaches at the Conservatory, and his courses on music include, for example, *An Overview of Western Music History*. He plays regularly as a violinist with various orchestras and ensembles, and at the same time he is writing a study on the influence of Leopold Auer, Mischa Elman and Jascha Heifetz on violin playing in the twentieth century. In a conscious acknowledgement of Marcel Proust, his dissertation on violinists and their styles has the title *À la recherche du style perdu*.



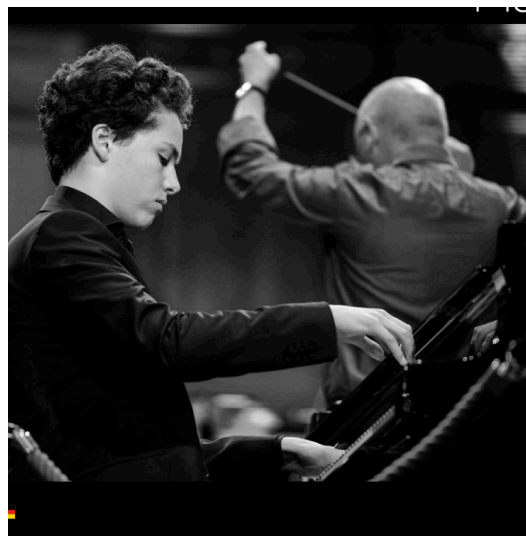
## Concert with Nikola Meeuwsen

The young Nikola Meeuwsen (b 2002) profiles himself as one of the most notable young pianists in the Netherlands. The Concertgebouw has awarded him [The Concertgebouw Young Talent Award 2019](#), and NRC Handelsblad recommended that we keep an eye on this young talent. Nikola won the 2012 Steinway Competition and the 2014 Royal Concertgebouw Competition.

As a very young boy hearing Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto, played by Vladimir Horowitz, Nikola knew he wanted to become a pianist, and the pianists he likes to hear nowadays on recordings include not only Horowitz, but also Schnabel, Sofronitsky, Cziffra, Rubinstein, Lipatti, Sokolov, Pogorelich, Volodos and Gould.

Nikola gives concerts at home and abroad, and the visit this January will be the fourth he has made to our concert series in the Algarve. He has given solo recitals in Milan, Bologna, Trieste, Faro and Imola; and chamber music recitals with the Matangi Quartet, with violinist Alexander Kerr and with viola player Vladimir Mendelssohn; and he has also formed three piano duos with Igor Roma, Anna Fedorova and Thomas Beijer. Nikola recently performed with the Residentie Orkest in the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, and his festival performances include the Storioni Festival, the Chamber Music Festival Schiermonnikoog, the International Chamber Music Festival Ede, the Festival Classique and the new festival Classical NOW!

In the Netherlands, Nikola studies with Marlies van Gent, and he travels to Italy to work with Enrico Pace at the prestigious Accademia Pianistica di Imola. He has also taken masterclasses with a number of pianists, including Jacques Rouvier, Pavel Gililov, Matti Raekallio, Ruth Nye, Edith Fischer, Jerome Rose and Dominique Merlet.



As a follow on to his presentation last year on Famous Algarvians, Peter Booker now addresses the topic of Famous Portuguese. What better place to begin than Santa Engrácia in Lisbon? In 1916, this church was designated the National Pantheon, and it was completed in 1966 after only 285 years of construction work. The delay in its completion gives rise to a Portuguese saying, *obras de Santa Engrácia*, which denotes something which takes an eternity to happen. The twelve tombs in the Pantheon include the recent graves of Amália Rodrigues, Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen and Eusébio. But who are the other nine? Why is Guerra Junqueiro in the Pantheon? Who was Aquilino Ribeiro? And even more, whose are the six cenotaphs in the Pantheon? It is not to be wondered that there are no monarchs in this building (members of the Braganza dynasty lie nearby in the beautiful São Vicente de Fora). But why is Vasco da Gama buried not here, but in the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos in Belém, alongside Luís de Camões? Peter Booker finds answers to these questions. Just as interesting, which famous Portuguese are not in the Pantheon? Such as Artur Virgílio Alves Reis and António de Oliveira Salazar. Join Peter for an overview of Portuguese heroes.