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Sourcing-, Screening- and Selection-Assignee, Photographer,
Graphic Designer, Image processor, Stage Planner, Co-host
Co-Master of Ceremony, Eulogist, DJ, & purported Mastermind(?)*

5th and 6th April 2019... the 3rd and final SINFONIMA Cuvée Darling Exhibition can be considered as the confirmation of last two year's more than successful cooperations of the Mannheimer Versicherung AG and Darling Publications Cologne; As upbeat the first 2017 SINFONIMA Cuvée Darling Frankfurt Exhibition of Fine Contemporary Instruments of the Violin Family and their Bows, followed by the second in 2018, and as Grande Finale this year's Exhibition in the prestigious Art Nouveau Rotunda of the Frankfurt Festhalle of the Frankfurt Messe GmbH. This location was made possible by the Group Show Director Entertainment, Media & Creative Industries Mr. Michael Biwer, who spared no efforts in achieving the comprehensible goal to get a DARLING event during the Frankfurt Musik Messe on its site.

Already last two years we could take humbly the sidelong glances of (not only) the well established Frankfurt Music Fair organizers at our Exhibition as a well deserved compliment. This year at our 3rd Frankfurt exhibition, we will practise some modest looks as response for this year's admiring glances as a historical unseen international group of 45 bow makers will exhibit under the same roof at the Rotunda, although an independent show, but still on the Frankfurt Messe site.

A short summary of some of the 2017's highlights; Firstly the beautiful Exhibition of Contemporary Instruments and Bows, secondly, but certainly not to forget an atmospheric most pleasant first evening event with the presentation

of 2 violin bows (by Tino Lucke and Dirk Löscher) and 2 cello bows (by Josef P. Gabriel and Klaus Grünke), acquired by 4 generous SINFONIMA Agencies (Fallmann, Luef, Pester and Reidt) to be made accessible to talented young musicians, a nice buffet with time and opportunity for some talks... despite the well praised 30 kg roasted suckling pig was the star of the buffet and occupying a great deal of the visitor's concentration and time in the queue! Even today (2019, two years later!) many keep mentioning to me about the "Spanferkel"!

A short *in memoriam* remembering the passing away of the unforgettable and great French bow expert Bernard Millant was presented by Stéphane Thomachot, who happened to be one of the 2017 bow making exhibitors. It was a moving moment, as Mr. Millant was an inspiration not only for me personally since 32 years ago I popped in his legendary shop on the 56, *Rue de Rome* in Paris, but as well for many in the room. His legendary knowledge in the Expertise of French bows will be unsurpassed, or probably even unequalled. Despite we see unmodest attempts to already re-occupy his vacant chair in the *Rue de Rome* shop; these have, in my opinion, no chance at all in succeeding, but, for also all the professionals I talked to till today, it is understandably doomed to fail.

The 2nd day also brought as highlight a final spontaneous concert by two Turkish exhibitors and their visiting friends, with beautiful playing by Mehmet Yalgin on the Turkish Kemençe knee violin, Murat Ufuk Güler, on the guitar and singing, followed by a classic of Cuvée Darling Expositions:

Plenty Pizzas and some skateboard demonstrations! The success of the 1st Exhibition 2017 spread the word apparently far over the borders of Germany, which can be witnessed in a far travelled exhibitor; we were more than pleased to welcome 2018 the young American bow maker Cody Kowalski from the West Coast of USA: the famed bow maker's nest Port Townsend (next to Seattle!).

A reason to be grateful for is the most welcome and generous acquisition of 2 viola bows (by Christophe Collinet and Rüdiger Pfau) in 2018 by 2 SINFONIMA Agencies (Rössler and again Luef -thanks Angelika!), so we obviously have a heart for violists too!

So this 2nd SINFONIMA Cuvée Darling presented 14 Luthiers and 19 Bow makers(!), from Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Russia, South-Korea and USA; all personally present at the Exhibition, all more than happy to welcome musicians, dealers, connoisseurs, customers and to show, explain and discuss anything what matters and doesn't matter, in excellent atmosphere with more than plenty food and beverages. And that not only at the evening party events!

So what can the exhibitors and visitors at the 3rd SINFONIMA Cuvée Darling Exhibition expect? First thing to be noticed and certainly not soon to be forgotten: A spectacular location: The Rotunda of the Festhalle. An art nouveau two floor round building, which the Emperor Wilhelm II inaugurated on its balcony with a speech to the crowded people on 19.5.1909, combined with the

