

PROGRAM

June 2006

Friday Evening, June 23, 2006, at 8:00

Attila Glatz Concert Productions, Inc.
presents

Helmut Lotti Live in Concert



Helmut Lotti, *tenor*
Helmut Lotti Orchestra

Program to be announced from the stage

Helmut Lotti



Born in Belgium in 1969, Helmut Lotigiers developed a passion for music from his grandfather, at the time the director of the Ghent Opera. While still a toddler, he discovered his love of both the classic crooners and Elvis Presley, and made his first stage appearance, at the tender age of five, when his grandfather guided him to the stage of the Opera House.

Known for his perfect Elvis imitations, including the King's trademark hip swing, Lotti's interpretation of the Elvis song "My Boy" took him to a remarkable second place in the grand finale of the Dutch *KRO Soundmix Show*, very popular in both The Netherlands and Belgium. Lotti's first three singles—"Kom Nu," "Bij Jou Alleen," and "Waarom Ik"—immediately climbed high in the Flemish hit parades.

Lotti's talent continued to develop, and in the '90s he became a true golden boy when he received a "Gouden Oog" (Golden Eye) award as "most popular singer in Flanders." In addition his recordings, *Vlaamse Nachten* and *Alles Wat Ik Voel*, go gold. The recording *Memories* brought him his first platinum album, and *Just For You*—a recording with lyrics and music both by Lotti—easily took him to another gold record.

Helmut Lotti, giving a sold out concert at the Casino of Knokke in Belgium, performed for the first time with orchestra. Other sold-out concerts followed, including at the Holland Casino in Breda, where for the first time, Lotti performed the standard "Caruso" to wild applause. The project *Helmut Lotti goes Classic* was born.

A year later the orchestra, now at 55 musicians and under the baton of André Walschaerts, became The Golden Symphonic Orchestra. The CD *Helmut Lotti goes Classic* became the fastest selling recording in Belgium—12 times platinum. Lotti was awarded the Sabam Hit Trophy. The rest of the world—The Netherlands, Germany, South Africa, Scandinavia, and France—quickly followed the success of this rising star.

Lotti released *Helmut Lotti goes Classic II* in 1996, when it immediately went platinum and garnered him his second "Gouden Oog" as Most Popular Singer in Flanders.

Helmut Lotti was barely 28 when he climbed the stage of the World Music Awards, together with Lionel Richie, Julio Iglesias, Vanessa Mae, Bee Gees, Kenny G, Roberta Flack, Ace of Base, and Celine Dion. In the presence of Princess Stephanie and Prince Albert of Monaco, he received the award for best selling artist of the Benelux. A PBS television special (broadcast by 80 PBS television stations) followed, with further airings on 130 other stations for their special December programming.

With the completion of his third classics album (called the *Castle Album* as it was recorded at Cleydael Castle in Aarstelaar, Belgium), Helmut Lotti began to present sold-out concerts around the world, including Germany, Canada, and Scandinavia. The same year, the UNICEF organization (dedicated to helping children all over the world) offered Helmut the ambassadorship. Without hesitation Lotti accepted, and thus joined people like Sir

Helmut Lotti can be seen on TV stations all over the world in the illustrious special *Christmas in Vienna*, where he shared the stage with Plácido Domingo, Sarah Brightman, and Riccardo Cocciante. In 1998 Eros Ramazzotti welcomed his "friends" Joe Cocker, Tina Turner, and Helmut to the stage. One month later the first *Classics* CD is released in the U.S., where it sold over 100,000 copies in only days. Around the same time, he received his third "Gouden Oog", this one for most popular singer.

Travel followed, and recordings/DVDs from those travels are released: *Out of Africa* (South Africa, 1999) and *Latino Classics* (Mexico, 2000), with more awards following: the ECHO "Cross Over Classique" award, the Amadeus Austrian Music Award in 2001, and The Goldene Stimmgabel in Germany. His 2002 recording *My Tribute to the King* was a childhood dream realized: his personal ode to Elvis Presley. The accompanying special was recorded in June and brought Helmut Lotti and his team travel to Las Vegas, Tupelo (the area where Elvis was born), Memphis, and Nashville. One recording was made in the studio where Elvis first started and Helmut was accompanied by Presley's musicians Scotty Moore (drums) and DJ Fontana (guitar). *My Tribute to the King* went platinum barely one week after release.

After working with Sir Cliff Richard on two duets (one for Lotti's recording *Pop Classics in Symphony* and one for a Christmas recording project of Richard's), Lotti began his most ambitious project yet—*From Russia With Love*. Pre-sales alone from this album were a huge success and King Albert II assigned Helmut Lotti to "Grand Officer in the Order of Leopold."

In 2005 Helmut decided to take a sabbatical leave from recording, but continued to tour the world on the *From Russia With Love* tour, which resulted, in December 2005, with worldwide sales totalling over 76 times gold and 72 times platinum.

In 2006 Lotti composed the title song for the Flemish film *Dennis van Rita*: "Love Belongs to Everyone". The director was so touched by the song that she used the song title for foreign language versions of her film. *Dennis van Rita* was billed as *Love Belongs to Everyone* in other countries. It inspired Helmut to release a new musical project, a combination of two albums: one with self written material, one with a selection of the greatest crooners ever. Scheduled for European release in September, this double CD, titled *The Crooners*, will contain one CD with his personal interpretation of some of the greatest crooners' works, such as "Moon River," "Mandolins in the Moonlight," and "Smile"; and a second CD with his self composed melodies in the crooner style.

PROGRAM

Helmut Lotti Orchestra

Willem Bohets, orchestra leader

Musicians

Bruno Fevery, 1st guitar
Costa Arvanitidis, 2nd guitar
Jérôme Stienne, bass guitar
Vassili Arvanitidis, drums
Willem Bohets, piano

Milena De Barquin, 1st violin
Rebecca Smit, 1st violin
Gosia Kopytko, 1st violin

Alexandre Kowalewski, 2nd violin
Tatiana Sukmanova, 2nd violin

Barbara Buchowiec, viola
Christelle Heinen, cello

Kristina De Troyer, flute

Eva Roefs, trumpet
Glenn Magerman, trumpet
Kristof Lefebvre, trombone
Bart De Lausnay, bass trombone

Selina Cespedes, backing vocals (soprano)
Pascale Van Campfort, backing vocals (alto)
Ulrik Elsermans, backing vocals (tenor)
Kor Hendrixx, backing vocals (bass)