



Press Release from 20/8/2013

Magic beauty of sound: concert by violinist Sophie Jaffé and Barbara Maria Willi



The Sonata for Violin and Obligato Harpsichord C Minor by Johann Sebastian Bach was the opening composition of the concert which took place on Wednesday 14th August in the Masquerade Hall. Violinist Sophia Jaffé and harpsichordist Barbara Maria Willi came up to the expectations of the audience both during the joint interpretation of the compositions and in solo performances. In the second piece of the program the harpsichordist gave an

opportunity to the audience to choose, based on short demonstrations, whether she should play the BAMAWI composition in a meditation or temperamental jazz way. The majority of the viewers' votes went to the latter and nobody regretted this choice after a masterful interpretation of the piece. *"The composition was created by Peter Graham directly for me, its name may remind us of Africa, but they are the initials of my name. He composed the composition when I was really excited about Ligeti and played his three compositions. Therefore the author inserted several allusions to Ligeti at the end of the composition. So in baroque as well as today we work with allusions,"* said soloist Barbara Maria Willi after the end of the concert.

After the intermission Sophia Jaffé played her favourite composition written by Eugène Ysaÿe, Sonata No. 1. The final composition by Johann Sebastian Bach was once again interpreted by both soloists. Barbara Maria Willi praised the reactions of the audience, *"Bach's music is complex and elite for connoisseurs so I am happy that it was well received by the audience at the festival. During the performance there is communication on stage between me and my partner on stage Sophia which is impossible to describe, I am happy."* Sophia Jaffé did not try to hide her satisfaction after the concert either, *"The concert in Český Krumlov was amazing, a very special concert, beautiful music, my favourite program, great acoustics, the specific sound of the Masquerade Hall, the colourful setting."* The soloist continued, *"This is my first time in Český Krumlov, today was a workday for me but in spite of that I visited the Baroque Theatre, I was surprised by the number of tourists, it is a very nice place and I am happy that I got the opportunity to perform at the festival."*

Harpsichordist Barbara Maria Willi added at the end: *"I admit that today it is my premiere as a visitor and I have explored the town slightly. Český Krumlov is like Mecca for a music enthusiast. We are standing in a hall where musical instruments are pictured and it is a hall about which at least five*

dissertations could be written as it contains a lot of information.” When asked what it felt like to play in the Masquerade Hall, she answered, *“In this hall we played in front of a mirror and even the sound and everything was such a reflection, it is a special feeling, the acoustics and the setting are inspiring.”*

Guitarist Carlos Piñana and his Unique Flamenco Evening



Outstanding flamenco guitarist Carlos Piñana was the personality of the concert evening in the Kooperativa Garden on Thursday 15th August. His partner on the stage was a young talented musician Michael Cába, who played the flamenco cajón and djembe, percussion instruments which add to the rhythm of the guitar. The first composition started at a slower pace, Piñana gradually accelerated his play, his partner clapped out the rhythm. The impression from his play

was intensified by the twilight of a summer evening as well as the illuminated chateau tower together with the waxing moon in the sky. The glass of wine as part of the evening created a very pleasant atmosphere during the evening and the visitors really enjoyed it. When asked how long he had been cooperating with master Piñana, Michael Cába answered with a smile, *“Three days already, it is great to play with Carlos.”* The answer confirms the virtuosity of both musicians, the harmony and mutual understanding on stage created the impression of long-term cooperation which will surely continue in the future.

Temperamental guitar play accompanied by rhythmical instruments and typical Spanish cheering sent the audience into raptures. *“The author of one of the compositions which you have heard during the concert is my father,”* Carlos Piñana reminded the audience. Rich tones of flamenco guitar could be heard from the stage illuminated in pastel colours, which fittingly complemented the atmosphere of different compositions. The applause of the audience also belonged to Michael Cába’s percussion solo and the musician valued the level of the audience. *“This is my third time in Český Krumlov. I am from Pilsen, I focus mainly on percussion instruments, drums, konga, bonga, Cuban music. The concert itself left a very nice impression on me, we went for a walk here, Český Krumlov is beautiful. The organization of the festival is excellent,”* added Michael Cába. Carlos Piñana was in a very good mood after the concert, *“The concert was nice, I am happy that this time the weather was pleasant. When I played here two years ago it rained a lot but even then the audience was great.”* The famous guitarist also expressed his relationship to the town and the music festival in the following words, *“Český Krumlov is a magical place, it brings a lot of inspiration to musicians and composers. The festival is very well organized and the people who organize it are great.”*

Čechomor Celebrated its 25th Anniversary in the Brewery Garden



During the evening before the official closing of the festival a spectacular concert of the group Čechomor took place. The Smíchov Chamber Philharmonic performed together with Čechomor on the stage in the Brewery Garden and Kühn's Choir Prague accompanied some songs by choir singing. *"We practised quite diligently with the choir and the philharmonic and we wanted to surprise the audience slightly by this composition. I think that we succeeded, it was an almost epochal experience for us too. How often are we so lucky to have around sixty people on stage?"* said František Černý.

Čechomor also invited a few guests to this concert, which was a celebration of twenty-five years of the existence of the band. *"This concert was very special, the group played with an orchestra, a choir and with guests as myself. It was simply an absolutely great evening,"* said one of the guests, a native of Dublin and excellent guitarist Gerry Leonard, who has experience with cooperation, for example, with David Bowie and Suzanne Vega. The audience also gave a very warm welcome to the other guests Lenka Dusilová and Japanese musician Joji Hirota, who besides singing also accompanied chosen compositions with Japanese drums and shakuhachi flute.

The almost full Brewery Garden sang with enthusiasm and asked for a number of encores. *"I have a beautiful feeling from the concert. We had the first fateful concert in Český Krumlov in the 90s without any idea about how many times we would play here afterwards. And the Brewery Garden is also fateful for us, today we have played here already for the fourth time, we like to return here. Český Krumlov certainly did not disappoint us and I hope that we did not disappoint the viewers either,"* added Karel Holas. The atmosphere in the Brewery Garden was relaxed, it was almost similar to summer rock festivals. Besides the full seats there was also standing room for several hundreds of viewers. Everybody could have some refreshments at stands with food and drinks with sufficient capacity so nobody missed anything. *"I have a very good feeling from the concert, although I felt a bit cold at the beginning,"* said Lenka Dusilová after the concert. Due to the slight cold some viewers wrapped themselves up in blankets and some solved the problem efficiently by dancing under the stage.

Fantastic Soloists Albena Danailova and Meehae Ryo Performed at Closing Evening



The end of the IMF Český Krumlov brought fantastic performances by violinist Albena Danailova, who plays in Vienna, and Korean violoncellist Meehae Ryo. These two ladies were accompanied by the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra led by the “experienced leader of the baton and also teacher, who was awarded a degree of senior lecturer at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague – Leoš Svárovský” as Jiří Vejvoda said during the his opening word before the concert.

The foundation of the performance of the orchestra, which this time played a repertoire from the 19th century, was great harmony of the whole ensemble. Thanks to this collaboration, supported by Svárovský’s confident leadership, the ensemble managed to interpret the opening composition, Dvořák’s Carnival, before the arrival of the soloists with the necessary ease and in a festive mood, which suited the closing of the festival.

Both soloists performed in the following composition, Brahms’s Double Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra A Minor, and their balanced interpretation of technically demanding parts of Brahms’s composition brought a unique experience. *“There is a good atmosphere here and this festival is very comfortable for musicians,”* said Albena Danailova. According to Meehae Ryo it is important for the orchestra to thoroughly perceive the soloists it accompanies. *“They really listened to my play attentively, which cannot be said about all orchestras,”* the violoncellist appreciated the Radio Orchestra. Besides the viewers, the conductor was also interested in the reactions of the soloists. *“I saw that Danailova appreciatively nodded her head at the end of the second movement of Brahms’s Double Concerto when she heard the woods because she was pleasantly surprised,”* noted conductor Svárovský. *“However, for me it was not a surprise because this orchestra has great artistic qualities,”* he added.

After the intermission the audience heard Beethoven’s dramatic Symphony No. 5 in C Minor “Destiny” and as an encore Dvořák’s Slavonic Dance No. 15. Although it was a respectable closing of the festival, the mood of the concert was a summer relaxed mood and one could feel the joy from music both from the audience and the performers. *“I believe that the audience which clapped after each movement really enjoyed it,”* assessed Leoš Svárovský. However, Svárovský himself also enjoyed especially the last composition when he complemented his conducting with euphoric movements and even the conductor’s stand seemed too small for him. The delight on both sides was also confirmed by standing ovations. The Český Krumlov festival thus ended in a more than magnificent way in terms of both dramaturgy and interpretation.

Official Closing of the 22nd Year of the Festival in the Masquerade Hall

The last moments of this year's festival did not take place during the viewers' ovations at the Castle Riding Hall but at the official closing of the 22nd year of the IMF Český Krumlov in the Masquerade Hall of the Český Krumlov Chateau. Here the presenters of the evening, Jiří Vejvoda and Jan Čenský, thanked not only the artists and partners of the festival but especially the viewers. *"The average number of sold out concerts and attendance is 92 % this year. It is clear that people who have a lot of worries want experiences and we are here to bring such experiences to them,"* said the president of the festival Jaromír Boháč. The weather also gave its support to the festival this year – none of the concerts had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The only heavy rain during the festival days was during the concert of bass-baritone Adam Plachetka, which, however, took place under the roof of the Castle Riding Hall.

The question who would be the face of the festival in 2014 resonated among the visitors. The president of the IMF Český Krumlov Jaromír Boháč answered, *"It will be a man, he will not be Czech and it will be a tenor."* The details are confidential for now but the viewers and fans of the festival will soon learn them.

After the speech of the presenters and the president of the festival the doors of the neighbouring Hall of Mirrors, where a reception was prepared for those present, opened. Both historic halls were sensitively illuminated by lighting technology, which intensified the uniqueness of these spaces. And such a setting was suitable for the evaluation of this year's last concert and the whole festival. *"Tonight's concert was the culmination of the whole twenty-second year of the festival, I looked forward especially to the second part, 'Destiny'. It really impressed me. And not only the last concert is important, all the other concerts are important. I have been visiting the festival for more than 11 years so I can compare and I think the level is growing every year,"* said Luboš Jedlička, head of municipality energy sales of the company E.ON.

Similar words were said by the mayor of Český Krumlov Mgr. Dalibor Carda, *"I was absolutely delighted, the soloists were great. I am impressed by the conductor's performance, it seemed charismatic and skilfully perfect. From the point of view of the town and from the point of view of the concert visitors it is important to avoid any problems. The weather was great, the floods came but it was before the festival and we managed to repair everything and prepare the town for the concerts."* After a short rest after the demanding artistic performance the conductor also joined the social evening. *"The festival in Český Krumlov is outstanding, it belongs to the very best Czech festivals. The quality of the festival is always created by the soloists and the soloists in Český Krumlov are always of the highest level in the world, whether we speak about Plácido Domingo, who was here two years ago, the four Canadian Tenors, who came last year, or Elīna Garanča this year. It is a fantastic festival,"* said the star guest of the closing evening Leoš Svárovský about the International Music Festival Český Krumlov.

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