

SIMONE PEDRONI NEWSLETTER N.1 - 2016

CREMONA MONDOMUSICA



Simone Pedroni, Piero Rattalino, Ettore Borri and Peter Grote

During the prestigious 28th edition of Cremona Mondomusica held in September 2015, it took place the seminar about the International Piano Competitions all around the world. This event saw the participation of representatives of some of the most reputable international musical reality (Piero Rattalino, pianist, teacher and musicologist, Peter Grote, artistic director of the 15th International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition and Simone

Pedroni, pianist and winner of the 9th Van Cliburn Competition) who discussed the relationship between the personal and artistic prerogatives of the winners and the qualities that the concert world requires to young performers.

COMMITMENTS BETWEEN PODIUM AND DUO

After his debut as a conductor with Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi in the phantasmagorical musical saga of Star Wars by John Williams - which saw two sold-out concerts and that will be replicated in Milan the next July 14th, 15th and 17th 2016 - Simone Pedroni comes back as pianist Sunday, November 1st in the series of concerts in San Gottardo in Corte, Milan, with Fausto Ghiazza, principal clarinet of the Orchestra Verdi, music by Brahms (*Sonata Op.120 n.2*), Poulenc (*Sonata*), Debussy (*Premiere Rhapsodie*), Williams ("*Viktor's Tale*" from "*The Terminal*"), Kovacs (*After You, Mr. Gershwin*).

The collaboration between Pedroni and Ghiazza, united by a



San Gottardo in Corte, Milan

strong mutual admiration and deep musical understanding, has started officially in summer 2014 during the Alagna Music Festival, conceived and organized by the same Simone Pedroni in Alagna Valsesia, Italy:

"Since its founding, I did several concerts with the Verdi Orchestra - says Pedroni - and I've



Simone Pedroni and Fausto Ghiazza

always admired Fausto Ghiazza's extraordinary qualities: his solo in the Schumann Piano Concerto was stunning. Of course, after these orchestral experiences I have desired to play in duo with him. We played together the first time during a break in the tour of the Orchestra Verdi in Basque Country: we worked on *Brahms Sonata n.2*. We soon realized a natural musical feeling: really a magic moment. Only recently we had the opportunity to give our first concert together, during the first edition of my own summer Festival "From Bach to Williams" in Alagna Valsesia. In that occasion it was natural to me thinking immediately to Ghiazza and inviting him. The program contains some of the

greatest classics such as Brahms, Poulenc and Debussy, but also pieces in which the sense of humor has a significant part, such as the *Viktor's Tale* by John Williams or the pastiche by Gershwin/Kovacs".

Here's the link *Viktor's Tale* by Williams, one of the pieces performed in this concert:

https://youtu.be/k_5-blg-bVM

ORCHESTRA SINFONICA SICILIANA - PALERMO

As part of the new season of Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana conceived by Maestro Aldo Ceccato, Pedroni has been invited to perform at the Politeama Garibaldi under the baton of Maestro Walter Themel, November 13th and 14th, 2015, the popular and beautiful *Piano Concerto n.2* by Rachmaninov. The audience filled the theater both evenings enjoying the warm and original performance of this masterpiece given by Pedroni and Themel.



Simone Pedroni at Politeama Garibaldi - Palermo

RECITAL FOR AVSI

On December 18th, Pedroni was engaged in a recital in Conservatory of Novara. We report an excerpt of the article published in La Stampa, signed by Barbara Cottavoz:



Simone Pedroni at Auditorium Fratelli Olivieri - Novara

"It was an idea and finally becomes reality: a concert for "Tende di AVSI". The pianist Simone Pedroni was determined to play for his many friends involved in AVSI, an international non-profit organization and for their campaign for refugees. This year he will be able to do it: the proceed will be given to the refugee camps in South Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and even Italy. The title of the recital is emblematic "Dreams and visions of tragedies and hopes": "I've chosen contrasting pieces describing the pain but also hope and joy. Music is an universal language. For example *Funérailles* by Liszt is marked by a funereal and sad

theme that evokes the debacle of the 1848 Hungarian revolutionaries in conflict with the armed Hapsburg Empire - tells the pianist - and you can hear the overwhelming horse racing in desperate battle. But at the end there is just a note of hope given by the desire of resurgence inside the human heart that suffers an injustice".

Then Chopin, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and Scriabin's *Vers la flamme*: "It is an enigmatic piece, so intense; it begins piano and then developed in a great crescendo. I haven't played it for ten years and I've taken it just for this concert because it is very impressive. The recital will include also a John Williams *Suite* from his music for the soundtrack of *Harry Potter*. It is an hilarious and cheerful music, I want to finish with a fairytale. We are in a period in which concert performances have to give pleasure, not only intellectual effort...and soundtracks are a great opportunity to bring new audience to a live concert where it is possible also to discover pieces of absolute beauty as those by Liszt and Chopin". Here is the link of two extracts from Novara concert:

Williams "A Window to the Past" <https://youtu.be/8wKg9Tk6rEk>

Rachmaninoff *Prélude op.3 n.2* <https://youtu.be/Mr26z-7VQLs>



LOS ANGELES – VARÈSE SARABANDE RECORDS

February 9th, 2016 is an important date for Simone Pedroni: in Los Angeles - at the headquarters of the glorious and historic record label Varèse Sarabande - Pedroni met producer Robert Townson and signed a contract for the publication of his new CD with music by John Williams.

Simone Pedroni at Varèse-Sarabande

"The transcriptions presented in this recording offer us a look on the multifaceted style of John Williams and his chameleon ability to change expressive register depending on the situation of film he works on.

Lincoln and *The Book Thief* have specially been arranged by the composer for publication: here it seems to go back to the auroral phase of Williams inspiration - Williams always composed



Simone Pedroni with Steve Knapp, vicepresident
Varèse-Sarabande Records - Los Angeles



Simone Pedroni with Robert Townson

at the piano. In this CD there are some tracks which were not chosen for the official soundtrack, so there is material of highest level in world premiere recording that gives us a fuller look on the secret work of the composer.

The Book Thief in particular leads us into the more intimate side of a man which preserves the freshness and the innocent look of a child.

Sabrina, *Presumed Innocent* and *Schindler's List* make large use of piano solo also in the original orchestral version. On the one hand, two strongly contrasting stories of love, on the other hand, a theme that has touched millions of people in his admirable simplicity.

As regards the excerpts from *Harry Potter*, *Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, they were transcribed by myself from the orchestral score in a transcendental virtuoso piano style.

What clearly emerges is that the brilliant and virtuoso piano transcriptions do not regret the original for orchestra and show the expressive power of a musician who can touch our souls deeper than any directing or editing, or acting: Williams is a master of the unspoken, or if you prefer, master of the unspeakable".



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBWi98ExjkA4MQAZmEqJaA>



https://www.facebook.com/Simone-Pedroni-221785025861/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel