



TN 102

Phillip Leslie

Nationalität: British



Kurzvita:

Recent first prizewinner of the Gothenburg International Piano Competition 2023, Phillip Leslie has been praised for his sense of 'culture and refinement' by the Liszt Society and is fast becoming one of the finest pianists of his generation. Described as an 'unassuming prodigy' by Hastings Independent Press and a 'tour-de-force' by ESM, he has performed across the UK & Europe including at the Wigmore Hall, Salle Cortot, Teatro Marcello, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, St John's Smith Square, Bridgewater Hall & Castello Auditorio. He made his Southbank Centre debut in 2018 as a PLG Artist and has had works broadcast on the BBC. He has performed at festivals across the UK including Endellion Festival, Perth Festival & Hertfordshire Festival. An advocate of British music, he makes his debut at the English Music Festival in the 2023/24 with a programme of Bowen, Ireland & Leighton. Furthermore, his CD of Rawsthorne & McCabe Piano Works will be released on Divine Art in 2024.

He was additionally awarded 1st Prize for 'Best interpretation of a Swedish Composer' in Gothenburg & was a recent prizewinner of the Anton Rubinstein International Piano Competition (2023), Liszt International Piano Society Competition (2018) & European Piano Teachers Association UK (2017). Furthermore, he has been a finalist of the Beethoven Society of Europe Piano Competition in 2021. Recent Concerti appearances include Brahms First Piano Concerto with the Scottish Sinfonia.

Educated at Trinity Laban, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Royal Northern College of Music & L'Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, a scholar at each institution, he received the Weingarten Prize and Silver Medal Keyboard Award for his his studies in London. His teachers have included Philip Fowke, Alexander Ardakov, Margaret Fingerhut, Kathryn Stott & Aaron Shorr. He was a recipient of the Sir James Caird Travelling Trust Scholarship for his studies and additionally received the Sir Philip Ledger Award.

Phillip considers outreach work of vital importance to his musical life and is grateful to have the opportunity to share music with a wider audience. He is thankful to be a Live Music Now, Concordia Foundation, Keyboard Charitable Trust & Cross Trust Artist. Phillip gave his 'Emerging Artist' debut recital at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh on behalf of Live Music Now in September 2023.



TN 102

Programm und Konzept der ersten Runde

Titel: Folk Tales of Time

Werke:

Scarlatti

Sonata D Major K.214

c. 3 minutes

Schumann

Drei Fantasiestücke Op.111

I. Sehr rasch, mit leidenschaftlichem Vortrag

II. Ziemlich langsam

III. Kräftig und sehr markiert

c. 11 minutes

Bela Bartok

Piano Sonata Sz.80

Allegro Moderato

Sostenuto e pesante

Allegro Molto

c. 13 minutes

Konzept:

Our folk-inspired tales begin with Scarlatti's Sonata K214 D Major - a joyous tarantella, recalling his influence of Spanish & Portuguese flamenco music. Chordal clusters, suggestive of the guitar, and its rhythmic verve recall his time from being born in Naples, under the Spanish Crown.

ETA Hoffmann's 1814-15 publication of writings and letters formed the inspiration behind both the Op 12 & Op 111 Fantasiestücke. As Clara wrote, "R. has composed three piano pieces of a very serious, passionate character, which greatly please me". An impassioned and youthful opening is followed by a lyrical and warm central adagio. The concluding work is full of rustic nobility bringing this late work to a close.

Bartok's Sonata Sz.80 from 1926, otherwise known as the 'piano year', begins restless and without restraint - this rhythmic charge is often intercepted with brief folk tunes. Bleak and austere, perhaps recalling 'Le Gibet' by Ravel, the second movement is funeral-like in tone. The episodic finale, full of bravura, is folkloric, without being derived from an exacting theme. Melodic tunes, redolent of the peasant flautists he would have encountered from his travels through Csik.



TN 102

Programm und Konzept der finalen Runde

Titel: Visions of Land and Sea.

Werke:

Debussy: Preludes Book 1

Voiles: Modéré

La danse de Puck: Capricieux et léger

c.7 minutes

Tchaikovsky:

Dumka op 59

c.9

Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition

Baba Yaga

3.5 minutes

Ireland: An Island Sequence

Le Catiaroc

c.7

Mompou:Paisajes

'El Lago'

c. 4 minutes

Rachmaninoff: Etude Tableaux Op 39

No 2, C Major

No 9 D Major

c.10 minutes

Konzept:

Voiles, which is often translated as 'veils' or 'sails' sees hazy visions of land from afar, before a Shakespearean elf named 'Puck' appears and wistfully sweeps us off of our feet. Commissioned by the Parisian music publisher Félix Macker, 'Dumka' (scenes from a Russian Village) depicts raucous and rustic scenes of Russian village life. Tchaikovsky wrote, "I love our Russian countryside more than any other". Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition are some of the most inspired works of the 20th century and here we have a somewhat brief appearance of Baba Yaga - reminding us that visions are not for the faint-hearted.

Written in response to the outbreak of the Second World War, a sacrificial altar inspired by a neolithic site, Le Catiaroc, depicts an ancient stone on the Island of Guernsey. This begins in a state of meditation, remembering the ancient roots of the island named 'Sarnia' by the Romans. Composed only one year later, Paisajes ('Landscapes') are some of Mompou's most distilled works. El Lago, endures a sense of distance and space, a visionary approach to water music by a Spanish composer. The two Etude Tableaux draw this programme to a close. No 2 is often renamed 'The Sea and the Seagulls', drawing a vast landscape from the depths of the earth to the birds of the sky. No 9, erupts with thunderous bells before enrolling on a bombastic March across the lands.