

destination CORFU 2010



Crossroads of global cultures

Interview with Hideyo Harada

Questions and Answers with a distinguished artist



Mrs. Harada, how did you feel about your recent recital in Corfu, as a Guest Artist of the International Corfu Festival? Your performance has created quite an impression!

Corfu has brought me back to a point, back to my artistic origins, where I was able again to understand why do I make music. There is an indescribable emotion: perhaps the Corfiot nature or the historical atmosphere or even the people ...in any case I do sense that the audience understands music, appreciates art, is so enthusiastic ... These are genuine feelings that I have felt on stage!

During your residency in Corfu did you have some time to do any sightseeing in Corfu? Did Corfu convince you as a “Festival City”?

Corfu is a fascinating place that combines ancient Greek history with a fantastic natural scenery. This unique place offers to the visitor not only the time to distance himself from every day's noises but also the opportunity to see into oneself. The natural beauty of the island equal to a greater painting offers a sense of magic, a wonderful sense of “space” and universal spirit... That is guaranteed a great inspiration for every musician.

You do belong to a younger generation of distinguished pianists. How would you characterize your playing? Are you a representative of which pianistic school?

Sound colors, rhetorical qualities, warmth and hearted playing: this would be the characteristic of the old Russian School, a tradition that I am trying to maintain and evolve myself into.

Professor Viktor Merzhanov seems to be the most important figure in your curriculum. What did Prof. Merzhanov taught you? How would you describe the time you've spent with such a great personality as Merzhanov?

Prof. Merzhanov has this August 2009, become ninety years old. Considering his age you can imagine what it means, that he is still teaching at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. This very last year he has played in the big hall of the Conservatory an extraordinary piano recital. He is one of the very last colossal pianists of the old Russian School. His personality and pianism is a direct continuation of the greater Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Horowitz, Sofronitzky and Feinberg (for just mentioning a few).

Merzhanov has always pointed out that the pianist has to base his interpretation on the truth of the music score; in the same time though, the interpret has to fantasize and walk on an imaginary artistic inhalt. The higher pianistic interpretation is based not upon a "free" opinionated position but on the sincere and profound study of the composer's work. Every work is an enigma that

could be solved through the intense multiple study of the music: the serious work on the score can reveal the truth of it.

In order to keep the pianistic imagination alive, the interpret has to create a massive pallet of colors. This can be achieved through multiple differentiated types touch. A very important element of the Russian School is devoted to the quality of sound. For the students, the lessons of Merzhanov were a true feeling of happiness as he hasn't only inspired us through his fascinating explanations and knowledge, but also he has shown the way through playing himself.

This is how a magical sound universe has been created: this is difficult to put into words. This is the true moment of saying "where the words do stop, the music begins"!!!

You do have an exciting career; you are a worldwide touring pianist. By this intensive schedule do you find the time to regenerate and relax yourself? What are you preferring to do in your "free time"?

I love to walk. I am also quite skilled in Chi – Exercises. Meditation seems to charm my free time... Reading, the Opera, Theater another Concert... and of course Cinema - that seems sometimes to replace the lost energy...

Thank you Mrs. Harada, wonderful to talk with you.