



Ruben Meliksetian

Biography

Ruben Meliksetian is a much sought after pianist, famous for his ability to sensitively interpret the most delicate nuances as well as vigorous bursts of sound while keeping in line with the composition' s overall dramatic structure at all times. Ruben was born in Armenia and received his first music lessons from his father. He studied with Gunther Hauer and Saule Tatubaeva at the University of Music in Karlsruhe, where he gained his concert exam (highest possible degree) with distinction in Sontraud Speidel' s Solo Studies class. Early on, his outstanding prowess has been proved by numerous awards in international piano and chamber music competitions. He was also awarded a scholarship by the Kulturfonds Baden.

Ruben Meliksetian has appeared at many international festivals including the Heidelberger Frühling, the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, the Europäisches Festival Ruhr, the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the Mosel-Festwochen, the Klassikfestival unter Tage, the Braunschweiger Kammermusikpodium, the Weseler Klaviersommer, and the Kfar Blum Chamber Music Festival (Israel). Meliksetian' s busy concert career has seen him perform in Italy, Poland, Sweden, France, Japan, China and Brazil, in the former Soviet Union, in Switzerland, and the United States.

His extensive repertoire spans a wide portfolio of works by Beethoven, Brahms, Schumann, and Rachmaninov as well as contemporary compositions with the latter recently gaining more importance and attention. He also performs in chamber music concerts, most notably in piano duets and in ensembles with strings. Meliksetian has recorded a number of CDs and has been broadcast widely not only in Germany by many radio stations including SWR, BR, DeutschlandRadio Berlin, and NDR but also in Israel, Brazil, Italy and China.

His CD with piano works by Franz Liszt (2006) was received with great enthusiasm by music

magazines. Ulrich Hartmann wrote about Meliksetian' s performance of Liszt' s Sonata in B minor: "Judging from the young Armenian' s reserved nature one would not guess the extraordinary power and vitality he puts into the Sonata in B minor. Amazing command of technique combined with a keen sense for the tonal specifics of this difficult work for piano allow Meliksetian to tackle this 'dreaded' Sonata and deliver a flawless and absolutely thrilling performance."

Meliksetian' s performances have been met with enthusiasm by the print media. In Die Rheinpfalz he was called a "keyboard wizard", the Rheinische Post described his performance as "full of musicality and profound richness from the first note to the last." The Badische Neueste Nachrichten headlined "True Artistry", and the Schwäbische Post wrote: "The audience was captivated by his delicately nuanced touch and the temperamental antipoles of vibrant enthusiasm and lyrical intimacy."

Since 2002 Ruben Meliksetian lectures at the University of Musik in Karlsruhe. He also regularly appears as juror in national piano competitions and has given master classes in Germany and Brazil. He is musical director of the Meisterkurse Ellwangen (master courses) and of the Internationales Kammermusik-Reihe Aalen. In 2006 he founded the Kammermusikforum in Baden-Württemberg e.V.