

I am drawn to the fascinating array of educational institutions and private individuals, who provide us with unparalleled choices. Always on the search for the perfect piano teacher to help me follow my quest and just for the piano

MY VOICE

Scarlatti Recreated

scarlatti recreated
transcriptions and hommages



Sandro Russo · Piano

Sandro Russo's *Scarlatti Recreated*, released Sep 24, 2013 on the Musical Concepts label, is an ambitious and fanciful undertaking in that the 'reinvented' repertoire is highly original. In fact, on the album there are four world-premiere recordings referring to the essential Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757). A contemporary of Händel, Scarlatti's baroque writing had been largely forgotten, gaining new popularity in the mid-twentieth century, as the liner notes of the recording suggest. In this recording, Russo deals with extraordinarily difficult material, solving their intricacies with his own, masterly understanding of the genre. He manages to adapt with a most elegant reverence to the different composers stylistic commentaries, without ever losing his own sensitive and personal touch.

Based in New York, Italian-born Sandro Russo has been lauded as an exceptionally poetic pianist with verve for the newfound joy of transcription. In 2005, he met Vladimir Leyetchkiss at the International Conference of the Rachmaninoff Society in London, whose transcription of Rachmaninov's waltz and romance from his 2nd suite for two pianos Op. 17 caught Russo's interest. Leyetchkiss approached Russo to play some of the movements of the 2nd suite transcription in recital. Leyetchkiss had originally intended this oeuvre for Cyprien Katsaris, who never ended up playing it; Russo

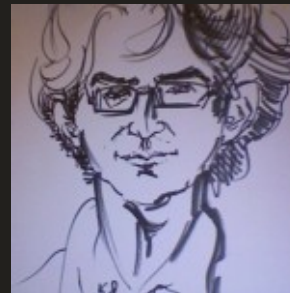
New Events Page!



[Get Classical Home Page](#)

[German Blog / Meine Stimme](#)

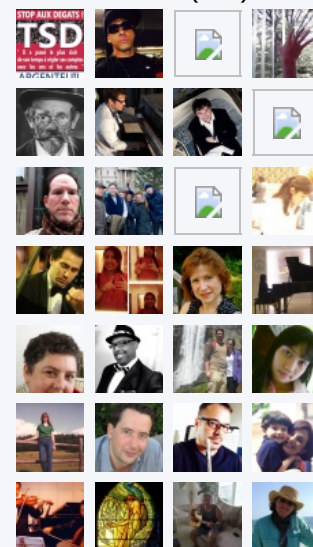
Roman Rabinovich Gallery



Pianist Matan Porat; sketch by Roman Rabinovich



Followers (379)



[Follow this blog](#)

FOLLOW ME ON [twitter](#)

[Search](#)

premiered both the Waltz and Romance during the 2008/2009-concert season with great critical success and enthusiastic approval from Leyetchkiss.

About *Scarlatti Recreated*, Russo remarks, “The idea of ‘recreating’ Scarlatti originated primarily from the basic fact that his work wasn’t conceived for the modern piano but rather for the harpsichord.” Scarlatti’s most significant musical contribution is his oeuvre of 555 keyboard sonatas written for harpsichord, chronologically catalogued by the most comprehensive numbering system of his work, which was created by Ralph Kirkpatrick in 1953. With a strong sense for the historic component of pianism, Sandro Russo has enjoyed playing historic instruments and performing programs that position the pianistic experience into a solid historical context.

Obviously there was something in Scarlatti’s intimate and harmonious melodies that inspired a historic response, one which bears as much witness to the styles of the times in which the various transcriptions were written - virtuosic, romantic, and expressive - as it does to the subtleties of Scarlatti’s music itself.



Sandro Russo, Photo:Ilona Oltuski@getclassical

An inherent ingredient in a transcription is its complexity. Based on the source material, the transcription evokes the original but often tries to go beyond it, adding a personal commentary. This often results in adding harmonic voices or melodic embellishments, translating into intricate technical demands on the pianist. Russo’s disc features transcriptions of Scarlatti’s material by pianists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Mid-nineteenth century transcriptionist Carl Czerny paid homage to Scarlatti along with other composers while he worked at the center of Viennese pianism. Piano virtuoso Carl Tausig and Louis Brassin, also best known for his Wagner transcriptions, added their own virtuosic flair to Scarlatti’s material, and included in their interpretations a fuller-ranged and polyphonic orchestral configuration of the original music. At the turn of the century, Enrique Granados set out to transcribe a set of Scarlatti Sonatas in a highly romanticized fashion of the time. Famed virtuoso and composer of the mid-twentieth century, Ignaz Friedman, was renowned for his Bach and Scarlatti transcriptions in addition to his Chopin performances; the Polish pianist brought a lot of Chopin’s harmonic influences into Scarlatti’s sound world. The compositions of the eccentric Charles-Valentin Alkan, a colleague of Chopin and part of the same French bohemian circle of the mid-nineteenth century, is known to test the limits of even the most virtuoso piano playing. He included references in one of his manuscripts to “Alla D. Scarlatti.” Slightly more interested in a historic view of the twentieth century are Jean Françaix, Raymond Leventhal, and Michael Habermann, each of whom approach

Recent Posts

Jeremy Denk - A Pianist with a Literary Bent

(le)Poisson Rouge’s in-house Ensemble LPR

Maestro Abbado will be sorely missed !

International Society for the Performing Arts - Lifetime Achievement Award for Ann Summers Dossena

Yefim Bronfman and Friends make Contact! with the audience at SubCulture

New York International Piano Competition goes SubCulture

Hilan Warsaw’s documentary - Wagner’s Jews - Screening at : Museum of Tolerance New York

In Perfect Harmony - Lucille Chung and Alessio Bax put four hands together for Stravinsky and Piazzolla

Huang Ruo’s Opera ‘Dr. Sun Yat-Sen’ - a contemporary masterpiece re-evaluates Asian Fusion

Joshua Bell rings in the holiday season with a live-streamed concert - from his house to yours

Pages

About getting inspired on the internet

Events - 2nd. getClassical at the Rose Bar - Salon Event on June 9th

Roman Rabinovich Image Gallery

Top Publications

Categories

About the composer

Amateurs in Classical Music

Book Review

CD release

collaborative

competition

Concert Announcement

Concert Review

Description of a recording

documentary

Entrepreneurship

Event

Festival

Film

in memoriam

Interview

Scarlatti with their personal historic perspective.

Russo's own revelations of fascinating details are projected with great sovereignty in *Scarlatti Recreated*, perhaps most brilliantly expressed in his performance of Marc-André Hamelin's *Etude VI: Esercizio per Pianoforte (Omaggio a Domenico Scarlatti)*. Marc-André Hamelin is renowned for presenting the works of lesser-known composers (including Alkan's), and works with pieces that many deem difficult to handle, remaining unfazed by their tremendous intricacies. The contemporary pianist/composer and arranger makes, in his own words, "a purely affectionate tribute" to Scarlatti, as mentioned in the liner notes.

Russo manages to keep the listener engaged throughout the different 'quotations' of Scarlatti's underlying impact on the music's clarity and finesse, which aids the listener in grasping a deeper look into the curious process of musical composition, as well.

The recording is a poignant example of Russo's thoughtful and meaningful programs, executed with great imagination and musical dexterity.

One Response to "Scarlatti Recreated"

Having attended Sandro Russo's recitals over the years, I believe he is definitely a world-class pianist who has tremendous potential to "shake the world". I definitely want to purchase his new recording of Scarlatti. Please help me.

Dr. Henry P. Sheng said this on December 6th, 2013 at 8:53 AM

Leave a Reply

* Name

* Mail (private)

Website

Submit Comment

introducing new ideas of presentation

Legendary Performers

Master class

Meet the Artist

music and research

New Ensemble

opera

Opinion

Orchestras of the World

party

philanthropy

Piano Technique

Podcasts that coach

post-classical

Prodigies

series

Uncategorized

Venue

visionaries

Archives

Select Month ▼

Photos

