

« *An incredible duo... what if the Berlinskaya-Ancelle piano duo was simply the most thrilling one of the current scene?* »

Alban Deags - classiquenews.com

Drawing their strength from their taste for sharing, taking risks, and exploring, Ludmila Berlinskaya and Arthur Ancelle are inseparable pianists; they are a symbiotic couple on and off stage.

« *Sensational pianists* » (Fanfare), « *brilliant, cheerful* » (Diapason), « *cultivating duality in a supernatural dimension* » (Le Monde), their « *superb technique* » (Classica), their synchronization giving « *the impression of only one player* » (musicweb-international), and their « *really dazzling play* » (fonoforum) place them on the top list of the international stage's piano duos.

Both coming from a long line of famous performers, and both accomplished soloists, Ludmila Berlinskaya and Arthur Ancelle have developed a Franco-Russian piano duo symbolized by an unfaltering mutual understanding. They aspire, thanks to their complicity and cultural heritage, but also thanks to their energy on stage, their original repertoire, their unprecedented concert format, and their communication with the audience, to give to piano duos a status equal to other forms of chamber music.

In a short time, the duo has crafted a repertoire full of the « hits » for two pianos and four hands, as well as of rare works, exploring original compositions as much as new transcriptions, which have been enriched by Arthur Ancelle's scores, such as: *Francesca da Rimini*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *After a reading of Dante*, etc. Arthur Ancelle has transcribed about a dozen scores of stature for the duo; the first two were published by Jurgenson and Chant du Monde.

Invited to prestigious festivals, they have performed at the *Musical Summits* in Gstaad, the *Moscow December Nights Festival*, the *Tokyo Spring Festival*, the *Rota das Artes* in Lisboa, the *Lisztomanias*, the *Solistes à Bagatelle*, or the *Pianofolies du Touquet* in France. In Russia, they perform every year in the finest concert halls of Moscow and Saint-Petersburg.

Bolstered by intense recording activity as a duo, as soloists, or as chamber musicians, Ludmila Berlinskaya and Arthur Ancelle produced three albums together, dedicated to Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, and Liszt. All three albums featured world premieres and have been extremely well received by the international press. Melodiya artists since 2014, Ludmila Berlinskaya and Arthur Ancelle have received multiple prizes and awards, such as the *Editor's Choice* of Gramophone, the *Choc* of Classica, *Album of the year* by Le Monde, *Pianiste Maestro*, etc.

Their new recording project, « 2-pianos originals project », will over the next two seasons, offer an ambitious series of recordings of themed original works for two pianos, that will further showcase the extraordinary wealth and breadth of this repertoire.

In the course of the 2018/19 season, they will commemorate Poulenc by interpreting his double concerto with several orchestras in Europe, such as with the Saint-Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra or the Philharmonic Orchestra of Freiburg. They will also propose a new concert format, in which solo and four hands tightly interweave within an original narrative thread.

Their creativity and desire to contribute are visible each Summer during the *La Clé des Portes* festival, for which they have been artistic directors since 2012. The festival takes

place within the magical surroundings of the Loire Castles. They also contribute by teaching the next generations of pianists, both teaching at the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris.