

Первое швейцарское турне Ивана Мошчука / First Swiss tour of Ivan Moshchuk

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The Russian pianist Ivan Moshchuk will give a series of solo concerts in eastern Switzerland from the 3rd to the 11th of May. The program includes works of Bach, Medtner, Skryabin, Rachmaninov.

It is always pleasant when different interesting people, whom we introduce to our readers, give us an occasion to recall their company. Here is a case in point. Two years ago, writing in detail about the Verbier Festival, we dedicated an article to the Russian-speaking members of the Academy of the festival. Among them was then-19-year-old pianist Ivan Moshchuk, who gave us the most pleasant impression both with his playing, and, how it is fashionable to say now, personality. We were very happy to receive news from Ivan regarding his coming tour of Switzerland.

Ivan Moshchuk was born in Moscow, but at four years of age relocated with his parents to the USA. Three years later he began studying music with Margarita Molchadskaya, a former pedagogue of the central school for gifted children of the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. He is currently pursuing studies at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. His pedagogue - legendary musician Leon Fleisher, who this past year gave master classes at the conservatory of Geneva on the occasion of its 175th anniversary. Ivan also studies music theory with professor Ildar Khannanov.

Still in the years of study, Ivan has already amassed a solid collection of prizes from national and international competitions, in which he participated while maintaining an active concert schedule throughout the USA and Europe. Following his debut with the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra in 2007, The Columbia Free Times praised Mr. Moshchuk for having "attacked the Rachmaninoff concerto with immense verve and rewarding sonorities ... only the highest marks for accuracy, musicality, command, technique and sensitivity."

In the Spring of 2010 he received the prestigious Gilmore Young Artist Award and performed at the 2010 Intl. Gilmore Keyboard Festival, where he also played Rachmaninoff and earned from the press a characteristic of "a gifted young musician with the mind to unravel the density of Rachmaninoff ... and the fingers and wrists to realize it". It seems that the international musical community recognized in Ivan Moshchuk a sort of "expert" on Rachmaninoff; it is no coincidence that in April of 2011 he was invited to the 8th Intl. symposium "Rachmaninoff: on the break of centuries", during the 13th Intl. Rachmaninoff Festival in Kharkiv, Ukraine. He presented his theoretical paper regarding the episodic aspects of form in the music of Chopin and Rachmaninoff, which will be published along with other materials of the symposium in 2012.

The Verbier Festival is not the only festival where Ivan Moshchuk had the chance to display his mastery. In addition, he participated in festivals of BANFF (Canada), Plzen (Czech Republic), taking advice from musicians such as Ivan Moravec, Menahem Pressler, Gábor Takács-Nagy, and John O'Connor.

"A direct link between the Verbier Festival and my current Swiss Tour is absent" - said Ivan Moshchuk to *NashaGazeta.ch*. - But, a kind of logical link exists: in Verbier, I met with musicians who anchored a tremendous impression upon me as a pianist. I met new friends. I will be sure to notify Christian Thompson, the Academy director, of my concerts, with hope he still remembers me. The current tour was organized by incredible people - patrons of classical music Brigitta and Mano Solinski. They are Swiss - and are huge fans of Scriabin and Rachmaninoff. It is by their request I will be performing a program based in the Russian Romantic literature."