

MAJA BOGDANOVIĆ – LOVE BETWEEN THE NOTES



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2013

The Belgrade Philharmonic's concert cycle *Without Words*, linking literature and music, resumes on Friday with musical stories about great love. The orchestra will revive the audience's memory of Romeo and Juliet's tragic love through the works of Berlioz and Prokofiev. The visiting artist, Maja Bogdanović, will *tell* another love-inspired musical story – that of Robert and Clara Schumann, by performing the German composer's Concerto for violoncello and orchestra.

Tonight, we will consider love from two different perspectives: while Schumann's Concerto for violoncello is intimately told in the first person, Shakespeare's tragedy is immortalised in musical terms by the objective eyes of Prokofiev and Berlioz. The programme of the concert is full of contrasts – the subtle tone of Schumann's intimate dialogue with Clara stands in stark contrast with, at times, brutal and tragic Prokofiev. More than any other composer who ventured into musical interpretation of Romeo and Juliet, he depicted the violence that is so prominent in Shakespeare's text, aside from love.

Maja reveals which type of music from her diverse repertoire she experiences as *the most romantic*:

In the real world, the music of Brahms and Schumann gives the most sincere and intimate account of love, both returned and unreturned, and only unconditional and genuine when it is like that. In the philosophical world of fantasy, Beethoven's song cycle *To the distant beloved (An die ferne Geliebte)* is an unsurpassed reflection of a man's feelings.

Your repertoire includes the polonaise, tango, Romanian and Spanish popular melodies... Which kind of music matches your personality the most?

I always try to adapt my personality to the music I play and, in doing so, I am like an actor who lives his/her role. I practically never look for music that matches my temperament. This allows me, as an artist, to constantly grow and learn from the great works of classical, as well as popular music.

A Serbian artist lives in the most romantic city in the world. Would you describe the life of an artist in Paris like a dream, or is it more *down-to-earth*?

For an artist, the best place in the world is where you can live a dream in reality. Life in Paris is like the most beautiful dream and I am grateful every day for this inspiration. But wherever I may be, I carry inside me the warmth of my hometown, Belgrade.

How will you remember the year 2013?

I will remember 2013 for one delightful beginning, which beautifully matches the underlying theme of this concert.

Interview in *Večernje novosti* newspaper, by Ana Popadić

Photo by Marko Djoković