

MICHEL DALBERTO



Michel Dalberto first came to prominence when, between 1975 and 1978, he won the 1st Mozart Competition in Salzburg, the Clara-Haskil Prize in Vevey and the Leeds International Piano Competition (where previous prize-winners include Lupu, Orozco or Perahia).

Born in Paris in a family which take roots in Dauphiné and Italian Piemonte, he began the piano at the age of three and a half. When he was twelve, he was introduced to Vlado Perlemuter, a favourite pupil of the late Alfred Cortot, and entered his class at the Paris Conservatoire where he completed his studies during nine years.

He has since performed under the baton of conductors such as Erich Leinsdorf, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Kurt Masur, Daniele Gatti, Charles Dutoit, Sir Colin Davis, Yuri Temirkanov, Neeme Järvi, Marek Janowski, Rudolph Barschaï or Frans Bruggen.

He has also been guest of Festivals such as Lucerne, Maggio Musicale Florence, Aix-en-Provence, Vienna, Edinburgh, Schleswig-Holstein, La Roque d'Anthéron and the Richter Festival in La Grange de Meslay.

From the beginning of his career, Michel Dalberto has been acknowledged as one of the foremost interpreter of Schubert and Mozart music. Liszt, Debussy, Fauré, Schumann and Ravel are also among his favourite musicians.

Very active in the recording field, he is the only living pianist to have recorded the complete piano works by Schubert (14 Cd reissued on Brilliant Classics). Among other publications, he did the Grieg Concerto and Strauss Burlesque with the London Philharmonia and Pommier, a "live" recording of the Schumann Concerto at the Vienna Festival with the Wiener Symphoniker and Inbal, Songs by Chausson with Jessye Norman and two recitals with Barbara Hendricks. Recent releases on Sony/BMG label include a Debussy recital, Mozart Concerti with the EOP conducted by John Nelson and Liszt Paraphrases on Verdi and Wagner's operas which received an outstanding reception from both critics (Gramophone, Classic FM, Diapason etc..) and the public (Top sale of the classic recordings during the summer 2004).

New releases to come in 2011 include the complete Chamber Music works by Fauré with violinist Renaud Capuçon, Ebene Quartet and others for Virgin Classic and the Schubert song cycle "Winterreise" with German baritone Stephan Genz for Swiss publisher La Dogana.

An outstanding chamber musician since his beginning, he played the ten Beethoven Sonatas with the late Henryk Szeryng and two-pianos recitals with the late Nikita Magaloff. More recently he appeared in Trio with Dmitry Sitkovetsky and Lynn Harrell or with Renaud and Gautier Capuçon. He also played Duet with Boris Belkin, Vadim Repin, Nikolaj Znaider, Yuri Bashmet, Henri Demarquette or Truls Mork as well as with top singers such as Jessye Norman or Barbara Hendricks.

Recently he has played at the Edinburgh Festival an all-Ravel programme, was a guest of Florence, Bologna, Turin, Milan, Venice theaters, returned to Moscow to perform Brahms 1st Concerto with Dmitry Sitkovetsky, toured France with Orchestre National de France under Daniele Gatti and Italy with Kurt Masur, UK and Holland with the Hague Residentie Orchestra under Jaap van Zweden and Belgium with the Liege Orchestra and Louis Langrée.

He has recently appeared with the Amsterdam Radio-Philharmonie and Netherland Philharmonic Orchestras at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, in Brussels for three all-Schubert recitals, with Lausanne Chamber Orchestra (Dvorak Concerto), in Lisboa with Teatro Saô-Carlo Orchestra, at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic in Manchester, Paris Ensemble Orchestral, Shanghai and Guang-Zhou Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, St-Petersburg Philharmonic and several "La Folle Journée" festivals in Nantes, Tokyo and Bilbao.

He does regular visits every year to Japan performing in all the big centres including recitals in Tokyo as well as appearances with NHK Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra or Yomiuri Symphony Orchestra.

He did in 2007 for NHK a series of programs for TV called "Super Piano Lesson" mixing lessons, performances and talks which were a huge success.

Michel Dalberto was for fifteen years Artistic Adviser of Les Arcs Academy-Festival in French Savoy, a position he resigned in 2005.

Between 1991 and 2009, he served during ten editions as Chairman of the Jury of the Clara Haskil Competition which takes place every two years in Vevey, Switzerland. After resigning this position, he has become a member of the board.

He has been appointed Professor at the Paris Conservatoire in 2011. Before that he gave numerous masterclasses at the Accademia Pianistica in Imola as well as Toho University in Tokyo, Seoul University, Manchester Royal College or Hannover Hochschule.

A keen sportsman, he does regularly ski in Savoy and Switzerland (where he lives). He is also an expert at scuba-diving and a devoted fan of Formula 1.

He has been awarded the Knight of the Ordre National du Mérite by the French Government in 1996.