

Eliane Reyes receives the insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government

Next October, at the Paris Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique, the Belgian pianist Eliane Reyes will be made Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Literature), one of the highest distinction given in France. She is the first Belgian pianist to be so honoured by this prestigious French award which is bestowed to those persons *"who have distinguished themselves through their creativity in the arts or literature as well as the contribution they have made to the cultural radiance of arts and literature in France and throughout the world."*

Born in Verviers, Belgium, on June 7th, 1977, Eliane Reyes at the tender of age of three shows a keen interest for the piano, encouraged by her mother, a piano teacher. Two years later, she gives her first public performance and at age nine, she is featured in Jacques Martin's very popular show, L'Ecole des Fans, on the second French national television channel. A year later, she makes public appearances in concerts together with the leading European orchestras - including the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam (in Joseph Haydn's D major piano concerto) conducted by Sergiu Commissionna and has played with such prominent conductors as Tibor Varga, Gilbert Varga, Rudolph Barshai, Grant Llewelyn, Peter Bruns, Lionel Bringuier, Heribert Beissel, Rudolf Werthen, Jacques Lacombe or André Vandernoot.

At age fourteen, she graduates from the Brussels Royal Music Conservatory, in Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden's class and benefits from encounters with the greatest pianists and musicians of her time, including György Cziffra, Martha Argerich, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Murray Perahia, Menahem Pressler, György Sebok, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Augustin Dumay, Ivry Gitlis and José Van Dam. She then furthered her studies in Berlin, Salzburg and Paris where she studied with Brigitte Engerer, Michel Beroff and Jacques Rouvier, in the third cycle of studies of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique. It was during that period of time that she was awarded the Blüthner Foundation Prize.

This passionate artist whose soul vibrates in unison with the romantic and impressionist forms of expression, feels also drawn to explore less trodden paths and to bring back to life contemporary and more ancient works from composer who were nearly forgotten. She has thus drawn attention to excellent composers who are seldom heard such as Alexandre Tansman or Benjamin Godard with premiere recordings which have been commended and acclaimed by both the media and the public.

In 2010, the Culture Ministry of the Belgian French-speaking community awarded her the Octave de la Musique, for outstanding achievements in classical music.

“I love to be able to express my emotions, reaching out with an open heart to the public. My relation to music is first and foremost intuitive. Music helps lifting our soul, soothing it to a state of inner peace.” says Eliane Reyes, who is also mindfully eager to stimulate and empower young musicians through her teaching.

Her dearest wish? To deepen her connection with audience from all walks of life and to share with them her emotions, echoing the inspiration she draws from diverse cultures encountered throughout the world as she toured with her classical yet innovative repertory.

The national Belgian Television (RTBF) will broadcast in Spring 2017 a 40-minute documentary profiling her art as one of the major pianists of today, in the series by Thierry Loreau & Pierre Barré: “Jeunes solistes, Grands destins”(Young Soloists, Great Destinies).

www.eliane-reyes.com