

Biography of Cyril GUILLOTIN

“He is one of those too few interpreters, who while respecting the spirit of scores gives a very personal performance. Never giving in to the so common temptation of technical brilliance and spectacular effects.”

“A fascinating and personal performance. There are real “Magic Spells” (Sortilèges) in this staggering and visionary piano, so delicate in miniatures, so calm and with a touch of nostalgia. The appreciative audience did not miss this impressive talent and asked for seven encores.”

“With “Sortilèges” (Magic Spells), the pianist Cyril Guillotin will no doubt assume a significant position among recording artists and will mark thus his genuine renaissance.”

His sound production is rich and elegant. His sensitivity is intense and quite remarkable. Cyril Guillotin is an unusual pianist. Some will call him a poet, for his performances invite us to dream.

His main masters are Brigitte Engerer and Aldo Ciccolini, and he also worked with the most talented artists and teachers: from Dominique Merlet to Pascal Devoyon, from Dimitri Bashkirov to Mikhaël Voskressensky, and also Olivier Gardon, Billy Eidi, Chantal Fraysse, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Jacques Rouvier, John O’Conor..

Although there were no musicians in his family, Cyril Guillotin was discovered very early on by prestigious musicians and won many awards in national and international competitions for young artists from as early as the age of 8 years old. He gave his first performance as a soloist at 11 years old during the “Mozart European Festival”, under the guidance of the Hungarian pianist Gabriella Torma.

He established himself as a child prodigy with performances in main concert halls in Paris (Salle Pleyel, Maison de Radio-France, Salle Cortot, Théâtre du Châtelet) and in Museums (Musée Carnavalet).

He gave numerous concerts and performances in prestigious festivals as soon as he won his 1st prize with Honours (mention “Très bien” with the warm congratulations from Yvonne Loirod-Messiaen) also in chamber music and conducting from the National Music Academy of Paris (Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris). There, he studied with Brigitte Engerer and Emmanuel Mercier. The same year, he also won the Grand First Prize for Virtuosity in the “International Contest of Arcachon”.

He performed in France (*Salle Cortot, Cité Internationale, École Polytechnique de Palaiseau, École des Mines de Paris, Archives Nationales, Atrium Magne, Palais des Congrès d’Arcachon, Abbaye de Royaumont*) as well as abroad (*Allemagne, Autriche, Japon*), as a soloist (*“Festival Chopin” in Bagatelle, “Festival Jeunes Talents” in Paris, “Festival Radio France de Montpellier-Languedoc Roussillon”, “Journées Lyriques de Chartres”*) or in chamber music with celebrated artists (*Viorica CORTEZ, Elena VASSILIEVA, et Shigeko HATA – Soprano, Pierre VAELLO -Tenor, Paul MEYER - Clarinet, Magali MOSNIER et Jean FERRANDIS - Flute, Fabrice MORETTI - Saxophone, Nicolas STAVY et Nima SARKECHIK – Piano, Patrice FONTANAROSA – Violin, Quatuor de Chartres, Quatuor Parisii, Orchestre National d’Île de France, UNESCO, Orchestre de Picardie and Pascal VEROT, Collegium Instrumental Méditerranée and Daniel TOSI*) and composers, namely Laurent Lefrançois who dedicated to Cyril Guillotin a piano triptych “Les Visages “ (Faces) that Cyril Guillotin played for the first time in 2007 during the *Festival Radio France de Montpellier-Languedoc Roussillon*).

In 2007, he was subject to a violent attack and as a result was kept away from the keyboard for more than 8 months and away from the world of music for more than 2 years. During this time, he graduated brilliantly in his high teaching exams. This painful experience resulted in a much more mature style of playing and a new vision of his position and mission as an artist.

He returned to the music scene by recording his first CD “Sortilèges” (Magic Spells, 2013-Les Belles Ecouteuses)) one year after the premature death of Brigitte Engerer. This record with his strong Russian touch as a tribute won critical and other pianists' acclaim and received the prestigious “Choix de France Musique” label.

The following year, he recorded “Balnéaire“ (2014-Evidence Classics), chamber music pieces by composer Laurent Lefrançois, performed with prestigious artists : Paul et François MEYER, Gilbert AUDIN, Magali MOSNIER, Quatuor Parisii, Ria IDETA and Nima SARKECHIK.

Cyril Guillotin is presently teaching piano and chamber music in the Conservatory of Narbonne (South of France).