



Henri Sigfridsson, piano

New media coverage 2006

“The puppet and the sound magician. Deutsche Telekom award winner Henri Sigfridsson at the Beethovenfest Bonn

The audience at Bonn’s Collegium Leoninum experienced a piano evening as heavyweight as the giant Fazioli grand piano itself. Henri Sigfridsson, winner of the first Deutsche Telekom Beethoven Competition last year, returned to the city with Beethoven’s ‘Appassionata’ and ‘Hammerklavier’ sonatas, topped off with music from Stravinsky’s ‘Petrushka’. Three monumental pieces for the 32-year-old to show off his talent. [...] This was followed by a grandiose account of the ‘Three Movements from Petrushka’, in which Sigfridsson displayed a breathtaking combination of beguiling, magical tone and acrobatic virtuosity. The puppet was brought to life to dance in ecstasy before our very eyes. Sigfridsson movingly brought out the playfulness and childlike innocence of the music, without shying away from brutal attacks and ‘Barbaro’ energy. [...] In the ‘Hammerklavier’ sonata too, Sigfridsson offered an interpretation that did not fall prey to the rage for originality. There were no excessive changes of tempo in the first movement, just decisiveness and measured force of expression, while the scherzo combined sly humor with demonic power. In the Adagio, Sigfridsson immersed himself in the sublime, rarefied atmosphere of the music with some wonderful cantabile playing, and far from shirking the demands of the intricate fugue by moderating the tempo, he offered an account [...] exhilarating in its risk-taking.”

– General-Anzeiger, Bonn, Germany, September 30, 2006

“A new star in the heavens of music

[...] Sigfridsson possesses a splendid technical foundation, artistic power, a feeling for sound, and ultimately the ability to maintain his creative distance so as to be able to make the entire emotional breadth of Beethoven’s work heard: while not showing himself stirred by the power of the music, he manages to stir the absolute depths of the listener’s emotions. [...] Framed by Sibelius’ five Esquisses – quite introverted songs without words – and Franz Liszt’s ‘Rèminiscences de Don Juan’ – the absolute highlight of virtuosic music – , the mes-



sage could not have been clearer. And our guest immersed himself in this music voluptuously with the finest in keyboard acrobatics.”

– Thüringische Landeszeitung, Germany, April 27, 2006

“[...] Until just a few years ago, Finland was first and foremost a hotbed of talent for young conductors. Today, pianists of international caliber also hail from the far northern reaches: Henri Sigfridsson, born in 1974, was awarded the first prize in the 1994 Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Weimar and, in 2005, won the Beethoven Competition Bonn in its first year. [...] At 32, he has already reached the level of a major concert repertoire, a fact borne out in impressive manner by his interpretation of Brahms’ Piano Concerto No. 2 in Bolzano. [...] After the intermission, the 32-year-old pianist sat down at the Steinway and demonstrated in a virtually overflowing opening movement from Brahms’ Concerto in B-flat major that this music is anything but ‘viscous or inelastic.’ Sensitivity, intelligent use of his strengths and brilliant piano rhetoric are the hallmarks of this young artist. [...]”

- Dolomiten, Italy, February 9, 2006

“[...] The young Finnish pianist graced us with an unforgettable interpretation of Brahms’ Piano Concerto No. 2. The technical capabilities of this imposing pianist sparked admiration across the board; his sensitive allusions to the multifarious facets of Brahms’ score captured new dimensions of poetry. [...]”

– L’Adige, Italy, February 9, 2006



International Beethoven Competition for Piano in Bonn 2005

“A cornucopia of prizes for the pianist from Finland – Henri Sigfridsson wins the first Beethoven Competition organized by Deutsche Telekom

In the final round of the Deutsche Telekom Beethoven Competition, it came down to strength of nerve; the Finn Henri Sigfridsson gave a bravura interpretation of Beethoven's Fifth Piano Concerto, at the end of which he was practically showered with prizes. [...]"

– General-Anzeiger, Bonn, Germany, December 17/18, 2005

“Fantastic sound-worlds – A semi-final at the highest level

[...] Henri Sigfridsson from Finland performed dances from Stravinsky's "Petrouchka" with energy and verve, followed by a mature and profound account of "Quasi una fantasia" by Krzysztof Meyer. Enchanting, expressive cantilenas captivated the listener in the Adagio from Beethoven's F Minor Sonata op. 2/1. [...]"

– General-Anzeiger, Bonn, Germany, December 14, 2005

“Pianistic high points with Bach and Beethoven

[...] The Finnish-born Henri Sigfridsson began with the Fugue in E major from the Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II. This was a velvety, soft and flowing rendition. The 31-year-old then went on to give an enthralling performance of Beethoven's C Minor Variations; and in the op. 110 Sonata, he again brought the broad lines to the fore. [...]"

– General-Anzeiger, Bonn, Germany, December 8, 2005

Contact:

Beethoven Competition Bonn, Project Office

Tel. +49 228 18111181

Email info@beethoven-competition-bonn.de