

## International Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn “Orpheo” concert series in Kerkrade, Netherlands

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### **Jordi Bitlloch opens the “Orpheo” concert series**

**Kerkrade.** An impressive setting and a highly promising musician – the best possible ingredients for the first concert in the Orpheo series, which offers a stage to young artists as part of the Euriade 2010.

The guest performer at Rolduc Abbey was the young pianist Jordi Bitlloch, who is currently studying under Professor Pascal Devoyon at Berlin’s University of the Arts. One reason why he was invited to appear at the Euriade was certainly his second prize at the Deutsche Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn 2009.

Bitlloch began his concert with Alban Berg’s Sonata op. 1 in B minor. “This is not the first piece that Berg wrote, but it is the first that he considered good enough for an opus number,” the artist explained.

He approached the first chords in a very concentrated and restrained way, before throwing himself more and more into the sometimes extreme chromatic writing, and displayed top-class technique in the interplay between the dynamic switches within the piece.

### **A breath of Mediterranean flair**

After the Sonata in F major op. 10 by Beethoven, in which he showed a lucid command of the playful melodies and rapid motifs, Bitlloch – who has a Catalan father and a French mother – turned to a piece by the Spanish composer Isaac Albéniz: “El Albaic’n” from the “Iberia” suite.

A breath of Mediterranean air wafted through the room, as Bitlloch began by explaining the leitmotif of the piece - which Albéniz called the “gypsy” – and highlighting the contrast produced by the various changes. After the interval, the artist delighted his audience with the beautiful Sonata in F sharp minor op. 2, which Johannes Brahms dedicated to his friend Clara Schumann.

Ending with hearty applause, Jordi Bitlloch’s concert was a successful and worthy introduction to the Orpheo series.