

Robert CASADESUS



Newsletter n°2

January - February - March 2004

An exceptional composer

A legend of piano

A man of talent

1899-1972

It was in November 2003...

The Robert, Gaby and Jean Casadesus Days

AVON, 15 November 2003

To celebrate the memory of this outstanding family of musicians, the town of Avon organised an exceptional evening on Saturday, 15 November 2003. A superb photo exhibition traced the history of the Casadesus family, accompanied by a slide show and audio-visual excerpts from concerts by Robert Casadesus.

The highpoint of the evening was the concert by the Manfred Quartet who magnificently interpreted the complete four Quartets Opp.13, 29, 46 and 55 of Robert Casadesus for the first time.

Recorded in December 2003, the cycle will be released by Sony Classical in 2004.

Coming soon...

The Robert Casadesus International Piano Encounters

LILLE, 16-18 January 2004

The Robert Casadesus International Piano Encounters were created in Lille in April 1996, on the initiative of Jean-Claude Casadesus who wished to revive the spirit of the Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition of Cleveland. The 9th Robert Casadesus Encounters, taking place from 16 to 18 January 2004, will be the occasion for an exceptional event within the framework of 'Lille, European Culture Capital'. Entitled 'piano(s) festival', this event, under the patronage of Maria-João Pires, will invite some thirty renowned artists for a weekend devoted entirely to the piano in all its various facets.

On Saturday 17 January, in keeping with tradition, the Encounters will honour the 2003 winners of the leading international piano competitions. The day will close with a recital by Philippe Bianconi, a part of whose programme will be devoted to Robert Casadesus the composer.

Concerts: Jean-François Bouvery, pianist

NICE, Hôtel Negresco, 6 March 2004, 7.30 pm

TOULON, CNR-Auditorium Robert Casadesus, 29 March 2004, 7.30 pm

On 29 March 2004, at the Toulon Conservatory, Jean-François Bouvery will give an exceptional recital with the entire programme devoted to the piano music of Robert Casadesus: he will perform the four Piano Sonatas as well as the Variations after M. de Falla. The programme of the concert to be given at the Negresco will bring together works by Chopin, Liszt, Ravel and the Piano Sonata No.1 by Robert Casadesus.

In short...

The website www.robertcasadesus.com, soon translated in Japanese :

Currently in French and English, the web site dedicated to this great musician will be translated soon in Japanese.

Contact us...

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Marie Béreau, first violin of the Manfred Quartet :

concerning the String Quartets of Robert Casadesus...

"It is with great pleasure that I set out on the track of Robert Casadesus, composer and performer:

First of all, I listen to him playing his Sextet, Op. 58 for piano and wind quintet: such fire, such energy! That is exactly the beat that we are continually seeking in our rehearsals. This is an essential trail: rhythm is a driving force, generative, inspiration.

I notice, amused, that the quartets were written during Robert Casadesus' concert tours: Chicago, Denver, Princeton and Riga.

He constantly invites us to travel. The landscape is modal, the rhythms often take us beyond the seas. I discover that his Opus 1 already bears the title "Voyage imaginaire".

The exaltation of virtuosity is quite noticeable in these four quartets, the supreme reference being the quotation of the finale of Beethoven's Opus 59 no.3. (We are swept away in an increasingly delicate whirlwind until reaching the land of 'black keys' in the finale of the Second Quartet).

I also listen to the Sonata, Opus 34 no.2 for piano and violin and am gripped by the beauty of his phrasing. Then I dream of finding these magical sonorities, flowing and warm.

I hope our Quartet, like Robert Casadesus, will achieve the natural and not the artifice."



November 2003

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Jean-François Bouvery, pianist :

Piano Sonatas and Variations on a theme by M. de Falla by Robert Casadesus

" Simple in appearance, this piano music, well written and highly readable, requires a second, more attentive look from the performer. Beyond the (numerous) technical difficulties, I discovered music that is quite demanding, rhythmically, and that gradually reveals its complexity to express jubilation or reserve. I appreciated this perfection in the writing and the rigour of the composer's marks—fully in the tradition of a Ravel and French music.



Contrasting with the energetic, robust, almost Slavic nature that dominates the fast movements, the very lovely slow movements, imbued with grace and contemplation, attest to a profound well-being, almost a meditation.

Listening to and discovering the piano music of Robert Casadesus is like tasting a great wine: you are immediately charmed, you ask for more, and then intoxication gets the better of you. It was a bit in this state that I explored each of the sonatas before envisaging the complete cycle. As for the Variations, they are a masterpiece. Robert Casadesus was marvellously inspired on this theme by Manuel de Falla, cyclical throughout the piece. The progression up to the final fireworks is of great intensity, and the pianist and listener alike are swept away in a bewitching atmosphere."

November 2003

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- Robert Casadesus : Complete cycle of the four string quartets opus 13, 29, 46 and 55

Quatuor Manfred

Release : Spring 2004 (Sony Classical)

- Robert Casadesus : Complete cycle of the four Piano Sonatas, Opp. 14, 31, 44 and 56 (world premiere)

Variations on a theme by M. de Falla opus 47

Jean-François Bouvery, pianist

Release : Spring 2004 (Sony Classical)

A few "premiums" CDs are currently available upon request:

contact Aurélie Miez at (33) 1 30 58 13 32, or by e-mail at amiez@robertcasadesus.com