

LAUDATIO for Mūza Rubackytė  
AWARD CEREMONY for the Hungarian Order of Merit

Alex Szilasi  
11.04.2024 in Vilnius

The internationally recognized artist, member of the jury of international competitions, critics call her a "phenomenally impressive artist".

Mūza Rubackytė is a pianist with an extremely wide repertoire and one of the most outstanding interpreters of the music of Ferenc Liszt in Europe. The pianist, while performing around the world, is always true to her Lithuanian origins, and is an active ambassador of Lithuania in the international arena.

The most famous Lithuanian pianist gave her first major performance when she was 7 years old, and at the age of 13 she won the Lithuanian National Competition of Young Performers.

In 1981, she received the Grand Prix at the Ferenc Liszt International Piano Competition in Budapest. For Hungarians, the Liszt Competition founded by Ernő Dohnányi means not only the preservation of Liszt tradition and the oeuvre of the piano phenomenon of the 19th century, but also the intention to hear all pianists from all over the world who are devoted performers of Ferenc Liszt. Thus, the winner of the Liszt Piano Competition held in the Great Hall of the Liszt Academy of Music - founded by Liszt - also earns a kind of full recognition of the Hungarian musical tradition created by Liszt.

I can still remember it now listening to Mūza Rubackytė's interpretation of Liszt's Sonata in B minor as a young piano student, sitting next to my piano teacher, in the semi-final in 1981.

The elemental expressive power with which Mūza constructed this colossal work impressed everyone. During the intermission, the colleagues gathered around my teacher raved like this: "Many of the candidates have already learned the Liszt piano technique. But only her playing guaranteed that she understands the profound, of the philosophical Liszt." I believe that this is the fundamental approach that gave the world fame to Mūza Rubackytė's interpretation of Liszt: Performing with full experience, clear expression of the composer's thoughts concentrating on the piece of music itself. The numerous international record awards and critical acclaim prove this including the award of the Hungarian Liszt Society as well

It is practically impossible to list the most prestigious awards held by Mūza Rubackytė in the context of such a Laudation. But, I am convinced that it is unnecessary for all those who are here today, because we all know that the most important title that has been appearing for decades alongside Mūza Rubackytė's name is :“The Music Icon”.

In addition to an amazingly active concert life - following the Heritage of Ferenc Liszt - Mūza is committed to spreading knowledge and supporting the younger generation. Mūza Rubackytė is regularly asked to be a member of the jury in international competitions such as competitions of Liszt in Utrecht, Weimar and Parma, Cleveland International piano Competition as well as Lyon International piano Competition, Competition of Piano in Venice, Piano Competition of Unisa in Pretoria, in Minsk, international M. K. Čiurlionis competition in Vilnius and many others.

She gives a lot of importance to education: Professor of Universities at the National Academy of Music in Lithuania, teaches many masterclasses throughout the world, including the Liszt Academy in Budapest and Weimar, Paris conservatory, Gilmore foundation USA.

In 2009 Mūza Rubackytė created the International Festival of Piano in Vilnius, one of the most prestigious piano festivals in Europe, in which she is the artistic director. For this, the City of Vilnius honors her with its highest decoration; the Saint-Christopher of the best cultural event. The Ministry of Culture has given her the Legion of Honor, has rewarded her devoted work of Liszt Ferenc music with the price Pro Cultura Hungarica, and, don't leave it out of the list that Muza presides the Lithuanian Liszt Society LISZtuania. Mūza Rubackytė has been organizing the Lisztofonija talent research competition in Lithuania for several years, in which young pianists studying in Lithuania can take part by performing Liszt's works. Myself, as the Artistic Director of the Liszt Festival in Gödöllő, sincerely hope that these two events will build long-term and fruitful relations in mutual, bilateral and successful cooperation.

Dear Mūza Rubackytė, please accept my deepest congratulations for today's award ceremony, wishing you joy, safety and health in achieving your further plans and successes!

Thank you!

Alex Szilasi

11.04. 2024. in Vilnius