

**The speech by MŪZA RUBACKYTĖ
after getting the award of the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of
Hungary.**

The state award was presented by the President of Hungary H. E. Tamás Sulyok in Vilnius.

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Excellence Hungarian President Mr. Tomas Sulyok
Excellence Ambassador of Hungary Mr. Gabor Diczhazi
Mr. Gabor Nagy

Dear colleagues of Lithuanian Liszt Society “Lisztuania”
Honorable guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

I am very moved today as I feel highly honored by this recognition of the Hungarian state.
To receive the award abroad shows the international importance of the artist's mission.

-This award for me is highly symbolic, as It’s a love story.

And I’ll tell you why.

I fell in love with Hungarian music and Ferenc Liszt when I was 11. I was a little girl who claimed: I'm going to play his Sixth Hungarian Rhapsody at all costs, even if my little hand is not big enough for the octaves yet! As I love Hungarian spirit and Liszt.

And you ? Do you love Liszt?

But which Liszt are we talking about?

We are illuminated by his multifaceted personality: composer, virtuoso pianist, organist, conductor, teacher, musicologist, writer, theologian abbot...

Ferenc Liszt said:

“The artist's mission is great; he is born marked by destiny. He does not choose his vocation, but the vocation snatches him and carries him away.

The only goal for me was the renunciation of all earthly things
and walk on my own way by escaping all that is banal”.

Ferenc Liszt is in a way a perfect model of human being for me from all points of view.
Liszt’s example shows us how an artist can be citizen-patriot of his nation and at the same time cosmopolitan, believing in the universal human values.

His whole long life was filled with love and spirituality.

Already at the age of 17, he wanted to dedicate his life to the church. His father dissuaded him, and it was only at the end of his life that he became an abbot.

It was Liszt who was searching for the unity of earthly and divine love through music.

He probably found the answer in the sacred because it is spirituality that allows the link.

-This award for me is highly symbolic, as it’s a story of freedom.

In a dark Soviet time when I won one of the most important world music competitions-Budapest Liszt and Bartok competition- I was forbidden a passport by Soviet Russia and could not travel abroad and play for 7 years. This restriction was followed by the long and difficult way to international recognition.

To receive today Hungarian award, it's to give a hope to those who are today aggressed and are fighting for the freedom, and
At the same time is the rehabilitation of our collective memory.

-This award for me is highly symbolic, as it's the story of friendship.

It's the international appreciation of the activities of Lithuanian Liszt Society "LISZTuania". Acknowledgement of our common devoted volunteer work, donations of our dear friends' sponsors, of all these like-minded people in Lithuania and abroad who believes in high power of music education through the outstanding personality of Ferenc Liszt.

Playing Liszt is like climbing a high peak: the big effort combined by discipline, self-control and perseverance.

In addition, Liszt is extremely attractive as a human being.

His expression "*noblesse oblige*"- remains a model for us and for the young generation.

The French poet André Suarez said about Liszt:

"Few musicians have had more genius and few men have done more honors for man than the magnanimous Liszt".

Thank you.