

6 March 2010

TwoPianists Records leads the way to MTN S.A. Music awards!



TwoPianists Records, the brainchild of two pianists, Luis Magalhães and Nina Schumann both resident in Stellenbosch, has just received two nominations for Best Popular Classical Album at the MTN SA Music Awards. All eyes in the industry will now be focused on a glitzy ceremony at Sun City on 16 and 17 April where the winners will be announced. The ceremony will be broadcast live on SABC 1. Of the five nominations in this highly contested category, TwoPianists Records has taken the lead with two of them, namely an album of works for two pianos inspired by the music of Paganini played by Magalhães and Schumann themselves as well as one featuring the ever popular Seasons of Vivaldi and Piazzolla, played by the Stellenbosch University Camerata with the internationally acclaimed violin sensation, Daniel Rowland as soloist. Other Classical nominations include albums by well loved guitarist, James Grace, Sterling EQ and the SA Youth Choir.

The Paganini inspired album of works for two pianos by Brahms, Lutoslawski, Arensky and Copland has already taken the international market by storm, evoking high praise from critics across the globe. "Thrilling and flamboyant, tender and passionate, vibrant and dynamic, Magalhães and Schumann excel in the raptly uplifting and colourful writing...I loved this disc from start to finish." Michael Cookson, MusicWeb International, 20 Aug 2009. "The repertoire chosen for their second CD release is a masterpiece, listening to the CD is much like attending a very entertaining and exciting concert..." Mike Ford, ClassicFM, 4 Sept 2009.



Similar elation accompanied the release of the Seasons of Vivaldi and Piazzolla instantly raising the profile of the new group, Stellenbosch University Camerata, to that of a fun, vibrant and top quality South African chamber orchestra, comparable in many ways to fine internationally acclaimed ensembles of similar proportion. Spectacular violin soloist, Daniel Rowland, has performed this repertoire to standing ovation all over the world and his presence with the students of Stellenbosch University has yielded electrifying results. "Stylish, tasteful and impeccable - but this was so much more: here was deep musical understanding that ranged from tender intimacy to the greatest excitement, always backed up by an astonishing technical ability." Die Burger, Cape Town.

The spotlight is now on TwoPianists Records: 2010 new releases will include another vibrant disc of the Stellenbosch University Camerata including the sparkling double concerto for piano and violin by Mendelssohn with soloists Luis Magalhães and Zoë Beyers as well as the world's first double CD set of the Beethoven Cello sonatas that includes Beethoven's own transcription of his Horn Sonata. This will again feature Magalhães at the piano with respected local cellist, Peter Martens.

The classical music world is now inextricably wound up in the fast pace of modern business and hats off to TwoPianists for seeing the gap and running with their innovative programming and designs, complimented by a hand picked selection of world class artists. When contacted for comment, Magalhães simply said "...Just honest music. Congrats to all involved!"

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