



February 20th and 21st 2010 CHOPIN'S 200TH BIRTHDAY - Kevin Kenner, piano

Programme: Waltz in E major, KK IVa/12, Mazurka Op. 68 No. 1 in C major, Mazurka Op. 17 No. 4 in A minor, Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op.20, Polonaise in G-flat major (*Les adieux de Varsovie*), B. 36, Mazurka Op. 6, No. 1 in F-sharp minor, Nocturne in C-sharp minor, KK IV a/16, Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op.31, Mazurka in A minor (first version of op. 7, n° 2) Souvenir de Paganini, B.37, Valse Op. 69 No. 2 in B minor, Scherzo No.3 in C-sharp minor, Op.39, Polonaise Op. 71 No. 3 in F minor, Valse Op. 42 in A-flat major, Mazurka Op.6, No.2 in C-sharp minor, Scherzo No. 4 in E major, Op.54

Encore: (Saturday) Polonaise in A flat major Op. 53 (Sunday) Fantaisie Impromptu

“POETRY AND PASSION”

One of those experiences of a lifetime: hearing pieces - heard already many times - as if for the first time.

Top of the top drawer Chopin! A transporting evening! **(M. Evans)** Viva Viva!, Viva Kevin Kenner for bringing us Chopin's poetry and passion. His spirit lives! **(Solange Liang)** A very special experience, and a treat to see such skill and depth of performance. **(Bruce Berry)**

What a feast of Chopin we had today! Beautiful, powerful and lyrical pieces played with obvious technical mastery. From the *furioso* to the heroic to the very delicate - we heard perfection - everything exactly as it should be. **(Morgana Graham)**

A splendid artist! It was even more stimulating to hear some of Chopin's less frequently played works, and in such a masterful manner. We are happy that Virtuosi's artists are encouraged to involve the audience by commenting upon the program as it proceeds.

(J.F. Reeh Taylor)

Everything from the most breathtakingly soft cantabile to incredible brilliance and powerful forte. It was all there. The music seemed to come from the depths of his soul. Is this the soul of Chopin or Rubinstein reincarnate?

Mr. Kenner has a most enviable technique - perfection in pedal and complete innate musicality make for an outstanding performance. What a wonderful birthday celebration. Chopin's heart may be buried in Warsaw but we heard the heart of his music tonight. **(Virginia Heinrichs)**

Although I am generally reluctant to write, this concert prompts me to share my opinions. Kenner truly demonstrates the improvisatory nature of Chopin's playing, with creativity at every turn of the phrase. Profoundly moving for me was the Nocturne in C# minor melody carried songfully over an expertly controlled L.H., always shaped and with interesting harmonies voiced. Thank you! **(Martha Koslowsky)**

I feel as if I've been transported to some magical realm of fire and ice, light and shadow, created so brilliantly. Are you sure Kenner is not a reincarnation of Chopin himself? **(Muriel Smith)** This was an absolutely stunning concert. Please note that the performer's comments were also very interesting and informative...**(Linwood DeLong)** ...and enlightening. **(Anna Schwartz)**



My husband and I thoroughly enjoyed this concert. Mr. Kenner's playing is superb and exceptional. The length of the concert was just right. We enjoyed the refreshments. **(Stan and Cheryl Skrypetz)**

A wonderful artist. Thank you for bringing him here. Excellent recital. We thoroughly enjoyed the concert. Kevin Kenner can certainly communicate Chopin's soul in his playing. **(Anon.)**

A Chopin concert to remember. **(A. Vail)** (...and similar sentiments were expressed by **Jack Wilkinson, Duane Cummings, Gord Pizey, Ivan Svenda.**)

(H. Strub, Ed.)

Thank you all sincerely for your comments.

Critic's Prize

Martha Koslowsky

CD — "Chopin: Préludes op.28 Polonaises"
Angela Cheng

Winnipeg Free Press - 22/02/2010
CONCERT REVIEW -Virtuosi Concerts
Saturday, February 20 -Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall
Attendance: (183)
four and a half stars out of five

Pianist's Chopin performance leaves audience lost in a reverie

By: Holly Harris

It seemed fitting that American pianist, Kevin Kenner should mention Faustian influences in one of his all-Chopin program's works. Virtuosi Concert's internationally acclaimed guest artist appeared here on Saturday night, wowing the enthralled crowd with a towering, fiery program in honour of the Polish-French composer's 200th birthday currently being celebrated worldwide.

The dazzling, 46-year-old soloist won top prize at the 1990 International Chopin Competition as well as a bronze medal that same year at the Tchaikovsky International Competition. The two weekend concerts -- including a Sunday matinee -- marked only his second Canadian appearance, which hopefully won't be his last.

Read the rest of this review at <http://tinyurl.com/ye63xbq>

(<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/entertainment/music/pianists-chopin-performance-leaves-audience-lost-in-a-reverie-84939142.html>)