

## **Marialena Fernandes and Ranko Marković**

have performed as a piano duo since 2000. They have had special success with performing piano transcriptions of symphonies by Mahler, Bruckner and Schoenberg, as presented in the Museum of Art History (on Mahler's original piano), in the Arnold Schoenberg Center and the Jewish Museum in Vienna, at the Festival of the Four Cultures in Lodz, in the Austrian Cultural Forum and in the residence of the Austrian Embassy in London, in the ACF in New York, at the University of California in Los Angeles and McGill University in Montreal, in the Kazakh National Music Academy in Astana and at the Con Brio Festival in the NCPA in Mumbai.

In 2018 they gave a.o. a lecture recital in Warsaw, and in 2019 they appeared in recitals in Zürich, Vienna and Madrid.

The duo has released two CDs featuring major piano transcriptions: Mahler's Sixth Symphony arranged by Zemlinsky and Bruckner's Third as arranged by Mahler. Their 3rd CD was released in December 2014 with the title „Viennese Waltz Export“.

### **Building up a World of Sound with Four Bare Hands ...**

Who of us would not wish to listen to Wagner's Tristan, Stravinsky's *Sacre du printemps* or Cerha's *Spiegel* as they may have sounded in their composers' imagination before they evolved into their final instrumented form? What a feeling it would be to hear the Mass in B minor as Bach first envisaged it, what an experience it would be to sense the sound that sparked in Mahler's imagination on seeing the foothills of the Alps and embarking on the composition of his Symphony No. 3?

Researching the process of forming sound in retrospect is the privilege and challenge of the piano arrangers of complex, hybrid scores, and playing piano reductions is the equivalent on the piano of Schopenhauer's idea of a reality explained by „will and representation“. Whereas Bruckner needs a total of 24 different instruments – played by 80 musicians – to intone the main motif in the first movement of his Third Symphony, the piano duo that performs Mahler's arrangement of the same passage makes do with nine notes it obtains from a single instrument with the help of nine fingers and one foot. If these just nine fingers on four hands are not charged with the same common imagination of the two players as the conductor's imagination in this enormous employment of tutti, then the sound of the piano produces no more than the poor impression conveyed by the faded photograph of magnificent mountains.

Making the grandeur and totality of nature come alive through the differentiated sound of a completely equipped orchestra is the claim of the Romantic symphonist. It is the task of the piano arranger and the performing pianists to transfer the vision underlying the original to a single sound board to give the listener a new approach to the origins and quintessence of the musical idea.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> © Fernandes & Marković

Musician's Biographies:

### **Marialena Fernandes**

Born in Mumbai, Prof. Dr. **Marialena Fernandes** has been a recognized pianist on the international scene for many years. After acquiring her Licentiate Diploma of the Royal Schools of Music (LRSM), Fernandes completed her education from the Mumbai University in Psychology. She then went on to the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where she received her Diploma in Piano Performance with unanimous distinctions.

Solo, Chamber Music and Orchestra concerts in most European capitals followed, as well as in USA, Australia, Africa and Asia.

She has been Professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna since 1991 to the present, also giving Workshops and Masterclasses all around the globe.

Fernandes is the founder and the artistic director of the „Uno, Due, Tre“ Cycle in Vienna's prestigious Musikverein since 2007, and has initiated various crossover projects, incorporating classical, jazz and improvised music.

Since 2015 Fernandes has conceived a project called „The Quest for Passion“ in which she brings together talented young musicians from Europe and India.

Regular stage appearances and CD recordings in Piano Duo with Ranko Markovic and with the Cosmopolitan Trio Vienna.

2013 Fernandes attained the PhD degree from the University of Music and performing Arts Vienna.

### **Ranko Marković**

The pianist, educator and manager Prof. Mag.Art. **Ranko Marković** was born in Zagreb in 1957, has been living in Austria since 1969.

After graduation at the Hochschule Mozarteum in Salzburg he has undertaken further studies in Moscow (Tchaikowsky-Conservatory), Budapest (Liszt-Academy) and in London. In addition to his studies of piano and chamber music performance he has been engaged in research and education from the very beginning of his professional career as a teacher and lecturer. He is actually working on his dissertation in musicology at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna.

After a successful and longterm engagement as Artistic Director of Konservatorium Wien University he has been appointed Professor at the Zürich University of the Arts in 2014. He is currently in charge as Head of BA in Music and Head of International Relations in Music.

Marković frequently sits on jury-panels such as for the Eurovision Young Musicians Competition in Vienna, for the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards in Madrid and the Franz Schubert and Modern Music Competition in Graz. He is also Executive Board member of the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra.

As a performer he often appears in duo with the pianist Marialena Fernandes.

---

