

Hearts in unison



A piano duo of exceptional charm, two human lives,
that entered the world at the same time,
and together they follow the path of the pentagram.

Two twins, Laura and Beatrice Puiu, speak of their musical universe, and tell us about how they became ambassadors of their original and creative way to make art for the world, through dedication to teaching, social initiatives, and working together with public and private entities. From the heart of Veneto to all of humanity.

Could you tell us something about how two successful artists grew up?

Music has been our oxygen ever since we were born. Our parents, who are convinced they were going to have a boy, because our hearts

were beating in unison, had already planned for the child to receive an education in music. And when we were born, the surprise was enormous!

Ever since we were very young, we had to undergo many tests to prove our natural disposition for music, showing a sense of rhythm, and an ear for music. At the age of four, we already started a propaedeutical course for music, at the age of six we were already going to music school, and when we were seven we started with competitions. Our schooling was in Eastern Europe, and, as you know, the Ea-



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stern countries boast some of the most important music schools in the world. Our institute, the “George Enescu” Conservatory of Bucharest, was a boarding school where we, in addition to music, took all the other subjects. The students arrived from throughout Romania, and we all lived together in a huge complex, where there was everything, ranging from musical instruments to classical dance.

We completely applied ourselves to our studies. We would practice every day in order to excel in a world where everyone had to produce at maximum capacity! This experience is what forged us, it made us grow up immediately. It was difficult, but the basis that we established during those years are still our strength of today.

Two hearts that beat in unison: how we-

re you brought up together, and what were your differences in character and behavior?

We have always thought that, if we were one single person, then we would be a complete individual. People feel this when they listen to us playing. It’s an event of great symbiosis, which is the fruit of studying and work, in addition to having spent all our time being together. As opposed to the European or Italian way of upbringing, we, as twins, were never separated. Of course we are different, but people who have known us for a while do manage to distinguish our peculiarities.

What type of music do you prefer to play?

We have a very complete repertoire, starting from baroque and leading all the way up to

contemporary pieces. During our concerts we like to execute, when possible, an array of all genres, through the centuries. We often combine our music with the projection of images, and last year we created a special pedal, so we can switch pictures while we play, and we have even patented the idea. Our intention is to repropose the specific character of the piano duo, since, especially Italy, piano duos are often missing. There are many soloists who improvise by creating a piano duo, but the real piano duo, i.e. people who have dedicated and are still dedicating their entire lives to this type of expression, are missing. Well, there are very few recognized examples in the world.

How did you end up living here in Italy?

We arrived here by means of a series of competitions. The first time we came to Italy, in 1989, we went to Stresa where there was our first international competition in a foreign country. And we were given a grant to study at the Conservatory of Milan, but it wasn't until the fall of the regime that we could go there and take advantage of that possibility. In 1997 we obtained a diploma called "Duo Pianistico" – Chamber Music – from the International Piano Academia "Incontri col Maestro" of Imola (BO), and we finished our degree in 1999 at the School of Music connected with the "Giuseppe Verdi" Conservatory of Milan. Also in the year 1999, we received a degree called the "Diploma-Laurea di Pianoforte" also at the "Giuseppe Verdi" Conservatory of Milan.

Immediately after that, we move to Verona and then to the village of Sommacampagna, we were given jobs as piano teachers, also fulfilling the roles of principle and director of the Academy of the Arts. Today we carry out



two types of activity, one is giving concerts and the other is teaching. And, in addition, we dedicate ourselves to the diffusion of the arts in the world.

Let's talk about this last aspect.

In 2008 we founded the International Cultural Association of Music and Art, which is a nonprofit organization also called "SferMusic" (www.sfermusic.com), and this had always been our dream on reserve. The name derives from "sphere", which represents something complete, and this announces our intention to demolish the barrier between artists, trying to create synergies between the various expressions of art, and between the various institutions.

Of course we are not alone in doing so. We have a team of excellent people who constitu-

te the life of this structure, and without whom the association would not exist.

Furthermore, we have created several projects, such as “La Bottega delle Artis”, and this year it is celebrating its second round. The idea of the project is to bring the public together with artists, whereby they can ask questions, get involved, details can be explained, etc..

Artists have so many qualities, sometimes unknown, which need to be brought to the light. This is not an easy task, but we believe in doing it.

Well, which are the projects you have already done, and which ones are you in the act of doing now?

There are many: “ConcertiAmo nel Sacro” is a project carried out by the Diocese of Verona, composed of itinerant concerts in the various churches of the town. It has been a great success and will be repropounded at Christmas.

We frequently create ensembles with young people at schools, to make them understand what it means to enter the world of music and the piano. Meeting the public is the best way to develop the understanding of music among small children and young people. Some examples of this are our projects “Palco Pronto” and “Emotions in Music - Youth for Music and Art”, which was realized with the Scholastic Office and the Student Council of the Province of Verona.

We collaborate with many entities, particularly with the Ministry of Education and Province of Verona.

We have made a CD constituting a first step in a long-term project called “Musica la Vita”. Here, in the future, young people with great ability will produce recordings and television performances.

One of our most recent initiatives was done together with the National Institute of Astrophysics. More precisely, this is a concert-conference which deals with the celestial bodies,

and it will be published in a book dedicated to the International Year of Astronomy.

Soon we will have a job to do in the social realm, which we are particularly excited about, and we will be working together with an institution for elderly people. The name of the project is “La Memoria nei Suoni” (Memory In Sounds), second edition. It will include music, video projection, and animation. Next year, however, we will repeat “La Bottega delle Arti” for its third edition.

We would like to remind people that SferMusic, in addition to being registered in the Guild of Permanent Associations, under the Province of Verona, and to being close to the Region of Veneto, and to the Townships of Verona and Sommacampagna, it is an international association which encourages cultural exchange, not only locally, but also nationally and internationally.

What is your secret dream for the future?

Indeed, we have two special dreams to realize. One is more of an ideal: to continue in our mission of offering music to all people, since we know that through our efforts we have a great deal to offer in our professional sphere. And then, we also share a tremendous desire to make the things we believe come alive, and to make our dreams come true, because transforming our ideas into action, is the most important thing that exists for us. Everybody needs beauty, everyone needs to dream, and to cultivate our personal fantasy world we had when we were children.

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