

## THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

“The world is celebrating the occasion...a spellbinding hour and a half of music!”

“Pianist Gerardo Teissonnière presented a stirring Schubert program early yesterday evening in the intimate atmosphere of Graves Recital Hall. An active international performer, Teissonnière is on the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music.

During a spellbinding hour and a half of music, listeners were treated to two piano sonatas and three piano pieces, all performed with distinction. An impressive Schubert interpreter, Teissonnière approaches the literature with confidence, understanding and skill.

These Schubert scores are masterful explorations in complexity of rhythm and mood and contrast in light and dark. Teissonnière met the challenges.

He warmed in particular to the final movement of the opening Sonata in A major, D.664, providing effective crescendos, strong bass underpinnings, and tricky finger work as his hands sailed over the keyboard.

In 1828, nearing the end of his short life of 31 years, Schubert penned some of his finest work, the *Drei Klavierstücke*, D.946 and the Sonata in B flat Major, D.960 among them. In the D.946 set of three, Teissonnière sustained intensity, maintained clarity of texture, brought warmth and beauty to the lyrical passages and gave an impressive delivery of furiously syncopated ones.

The D.960 sonata is a beautiful and complicated masterpiece with a first movement as long as the other three combined. Its theme, as that of the whole work, might be the durability of the human spirit. Teissonnière infused majesty to the somber mood of the slow movement and frenetic energy to the scherzo, which he concluded with a fleeting smile before diving into the virtuosic final movement.” - Mary Hoffman

## THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

“Every work on the program claimed immediate appeal, which shouldn't imply that the music was thin in substance. The pieces by Alberto Ginastera and Manuel de Falla exuded rhythmic flair and seductive lyricism. Much of the music placed its feet in territory where Spanish composers excel, the dances of their regions. These elements were pervasive in the night's most adventurous score, Ginastera's *Danzas Argentinas*, Op.2, to which Teissonnière brought superb definition of rhythms and colors. In this early work, Ginastera exults in pungent harmonies that add an air of expressive mystery to the lines. The final movement is a cowboy dance full of motoric devices and wild digital flourishes. The pianist was as vibrant in these vigorous outbursts as he was in Ginastera's sensuous phrases.”

- Donald Rosenberg

## THE SAN JUAN STAR

“Outstanding pianism, rich in dynamic sonorities, poetry and tonal beauty.” - Sylvia Lamoutte

## EL NUEVO DIA

“Teissonnière's performance of the Bach-Busoni and Goyescas could be characterized as almost improvisatory in nature, presented with thorough ease and elegant manner. This is truly an artist of extraordinary musicianship and rare sensibility.” - Jorge Martínez

## SULZBACH-ROSENBERG ZEITUNG

“Moments of Pure, Poignant Beauty.”

“Fourteen top-class musicians in different chamber music formations with very different pieces, this is what the 2nd master concert of the Artist Faculty at the Sulzbach-Rosenberg International Music Festival (SRIMF) offered. The consistently outstanding quality of the evening thrilled the audience on Thursday. Gerardo Teissonnière opened the evening with Claude Debussy's "Les soirs illuminés par l'ardeur du charbon", "Evenings Enlightened by Charcoal". This is how the concertgoers really felt in the sun-heated hall, but Teissonnière's subtle, nuanced playing made them forget the heat. The pianist also collaborated with two big stars who are at home in the ducal city: cellist Misha Quint and Bayreuth contralto Christa Mayer. Quint's famous singing cello sound flattered Mayer's warm, sensual alto in two songs by Johannes Brahms. At times sad and expressive, Mayer's voice filled the room, sometimes tender and sweet, then again with dramatic force. Moments of pure, poignant beauty.” - Martin Franitza