

Perianes, the piano virtuoso

Award winning Spanish pianist to perform in Nicosia next week

Hugely popular with Spanish audiences and with a growing international reputation, Javier Perianes will be in Cyprus for a single recital at The Shoe Factory on March 21.

Javier has performed in distinguished concert series throughout the world and has made notable appearances at Carnegie Hall, the Wigmore Hall, the Tchaikovsky Conservatory and most recently an appearance with the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta at the Lucerne Festival.

"I feel that I was very lucky to have a family who were so supportive of my dreams and ambitions. My parents made many sacrifices for both my brother and I to achieve our goals and I owe them everything. I started my musical career by playing the clarinet in the big band of my little village but when I discovered the sound of a grand piano, I instantly fell in love with that magical sound."

Last year, Perianes received the "Na-

tional Music Prize" awarded by the Ministry of Culture of Spain for his commitment to the dissemination of Spanish music, his international presence in major festivals and concert halls in the world with orchestras and renowned directors and his human values.

"It was of course a great honour and privilege to receive such an important national award and I am happy and grateful for this. Without doubt, it is also a great incentive to keep working in the same direction."

Often, a musician has a particular affinity or interest in a particular composer and in Javier's case, there are two. In September 2011 on the Harmonia Mundi label, he released a disc devoted to music for piano by de Falla and Beethoven's Moto Perpetuo Sonatas in 2012.

"Beethoven and de Falla's music have been part of my repertoire from the onset of my years at the conservatoire and naturally also during these years in my

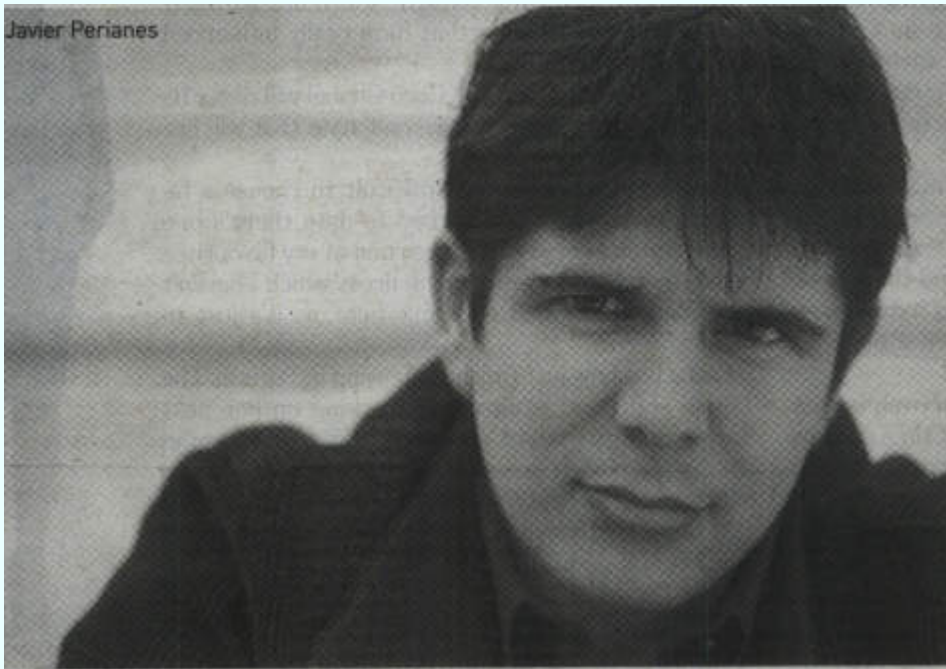
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Javier Perianes



career. It's really not easy to define with words what they mean to me – if I had to reduce it to a few words, I would say that their music touches me in a deep and spiritual way.”

Beethoven, Schumann and de Falla feature in the Shoe Factory recital. “I’m not showing the complete works of de Falla but instead exploring step by step the different moments in de Falla’s life. The very beginning where we can, of course, see the influence of Chopin, Grieg, Schumann; the middle de Falla, where you can hear how he uses the different styles from Spanish folklore and creates his own voice and finally his Fantasia Baetica which I consider the most important piece for piano solo of Spanish repertoire as we hear the influences of Liszt, Stravinsky and Debussy but where de Falla retains his own unique style and voice.”

Many artists consider recordings an important process and for reasons of posterity contribute to part of their growth and development as musicians. Javier prefers to make his recordings

fast and likes to “recreate the live concert feeling in the studio.”

“I don’t have a lot of time to listen to recordings, but when I do, I especially love those of the legends like Richter, Gilels, Lipatti, De Larrocha and of course Pires, Barenboim, Radu Lupu...by listening, one can learn a lot about their thoughts on the masterpieces. I have learned from recordings, master-classes and live concerts.

“One must collate all the options and visions and then decide which ones would be a true interpretation of your thoughts.”

Javier is very disciplined when it comes to practice. “When at home, I practise in the morning so that my afternoons are free to catch up with friends, emails or attend concerts or matches in the evening.”

Matches? Laughing, Javier explains “I’m a huge sports fan – especially football! I also love cinema and have a good book with me during my trips. At the moment I’m reading Jann Pasler’s Camille Saint Saens and his World.”

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