

This Week

Music

Modern maestro

Armenian pianist Vahan Mardirossian has just released a CD of Beethoven's *Piano Sonatas* and will celebrate the recording with a concert of the composer's well known *Moonlight*, *Pathetique* and *Pastorale Sonatas* on September 18 at The Shoe Factory in Nicosia. Since his studies at the Paris Conservatoire and debut, Mardirossian has appeared with some of the world's most notable orchestras and collaborated with conductors such as Kurt Masur, Juraj Valchuha and Yutaka Sado. He has had numerous works dedicated to him, and collaborated closely with composer Eric Tanguy's who dedicated his *Second Piano Sonata* to Mardirossian. His recordings have been highly acclaimed by critics. Mardirossian is simultaneously leading a promising conducting career, having conducted the Manhattan School Orchestra at

the invitation of Kurt Masur, the Armenian Philharmonic and the Orchestra of the Opera of Toulon amongst others.

The *Piano Sonata No. 14 in C Sharp Min Op. 27* is popularly nicknamed *Moonlight* but apart from the first movement, is some of the most turbulent music ever written by Beethoven. Although Countess Guicciardi was said to have been the inspiration for the work, it was only dedicated to her after another work intended for her, had had to be reassigned to another patron.

The *Piano Sonata No 8 in C Minor Op. 13* was given the title *Pathetique* by the composer himself. It was written in 1798 when Beethoven was leading a contented domestic life in spite of the awareness of his intruding deafness. The sonata is dedicated to Lichnowsky, who in return gave Beethoven a valuable quartet of Italian string instruments and shortly after, secured an annuity of 600 florins.

The recital will conclude with the *Piano Sonata No 15 in D Major Op. 28*, the *Pastoral*. The nickname emanates from his Hamburg publisher and is a sunny work in the classical four move-

ment model.

As seating is limited, reservations are essential.

Vahan Mardirossian
Pharos Arts Foundation presents piano recital with Vahan Mardirossian. September 18. Shoe Factory, 304 Ermou Street, Nicosia. 8.30pm. €20/15. Tel: 22-663871

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