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Fanfares – Klosters Music opens at a gallop!



Leading Swiss pianist Francesco Piemontesi and the highly regarded Spanish conductor Pablo Heras-Casado.

The Arena for the opening night of the 4th edition of Klosters Music was packed with an enthusiastic audience who were not disappointed with the concert themed as “Romantic Awakening”.

Clair Southwell

The dynamic Spanish conductor Pablo Heras-Casado has a long musical relationship with the talented Ticino pianist Francesco Piemontesi which was a huge contributory factor to this special opening performance last Saturday. Francesco is the leading Swiss pianist and a true poet of the piano. Later this month he returns to the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, London playing Beethoven's Nr.4 piano concerto. What he gave us on Saturday in Schumann's piano concerto in A minor was a breath-taking interpretation full of barnstorming virtuosity

contrasting with refined elegant moments. Francesco's encore of Schubert impromptu in G flat major was simply sublime and received a massive standing ovation. There was Spanish fire to the Italian sunshine of Mendelssohn's Symphony Nr. 4 in A major and Rossini's William Tell overture was the perfect curtain raiser to this year's theme “Zeitreise. A Musical Journey” sending shivers down the spine with the brass fanfares.

Sunday's concert was a celebration of the 18th century bringing together royal music from England, Germany, and France. The programme was framed by Handel's Water Music which was played with great style. The trumpets and horns were positioned at the front of the orchestra – a moment of great theatre

The Freiburger Barockorchester is the gold standard of period instrument orchestras brilliantly led by Gottfried von der Goltz. Making his debut with the or-



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chestra was the harpsichordist Francesco Corti who performed Bach's concerto in d minor with pure brilliance justifying his reputation as one of the finest harpsichordists in the world.

On Swiss National Day, The Ensemble Philharmonix, drawn from members of the Vienna Berlin Philamonics dazzled and entertained the audience with a unique set of arrangements of well-known classics reworked for the 21st century. An evening of great humour and incredible musicianship that allowed the individual personalities of these great musicians to shine.

On Tuesday night in the unique setting of Atelier Bolt, nestling in the idyllic alpine meadows, music and the spoken word came together to take the audience on a journey with some of the most interesting artists inspired by their experiences in Switzerland in the 19th century. The outstanding Swiss pianist Oliver Schnyder and the distinguished writer, Alain Claude Sulzer, presented an absorbing programme seamlessly weaving together Mendelssohn's Songs Without Words and his great Prelude and Fugue with three works from Liszt's Annees de Pelerinages. Alain brought to life, in a very personal

way just how important their Swiss travels were to their creative life in a juxtaposition of letters and contemporary events. A magical evening.

The remaining five concerts will be reviewed next week and there might still be some tickets available for this weekend with the closing night on Sunday by the maestro of the piano Sir András Schiff.

For tickets go to the website www.klosters-music.ch or in person at the Tourist infor-



Heinz Brand the President of Klosters Music. Information offices Klosters and Davos or by telephone (+41 900 585 887, CHF 1.20/Min). www.klosters-music.ch



The Ensemble Philharmonix who gave a very entertaining concert on 1st August.