

Prizewinner Concours Géza Anda 2015

Ronaldo Rolim, piano Brazil

Rolim, thus the Mexican newspaper *El Norte*, is “an artist capable of moving an audience through his interpretations”. Born in 1986 in Volorantim/São Paulo, the Brazilian pianist Ronaldo Rolim was awarded the 3rd Prize and the Schumann Prize at the prestigious Concours Géza Anda 2015 in Zurich.



Ronaldo Rolim

Rolim has performed extensively as a recitalist on four continents (in Carnegie Hall in New York, the Wigmore Hall in London, at the Seoul Arts Center and at the Teatro Municipal of Rio de Janeiro) and as a soloist with orchestras in Brazil and abroad, including performances with the São Paulo Radio Orchestra, the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, the Musikkollegium Winterthur, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orquestra do Norte, Portugal.

A passionate chamber musician, Ronaldo frequently collaborates with singers and instrumentalists. Together with the violinist Lydia Chernicoff and the cellist Andrea Casarrubios, he founded the Trio Appassionata in 2007. They released their first CD, *gone into night are all the eyes*, on Odradek Records in 2014, featuring piano trios by American composers.



Rolim has made numerous radio recordings in Brazil (MEC and Cultura), the United States (Spokane Public Radio, WBJC Baltimore) and Europe (SWR2, RAI 3, France Musique, Swiss Radio SRF2). The São Paulo TV channel “TV Cultura” has also produced *Brasil Piano Solo* with him, in which he broadcast a series of recitals dedicated exclusively to Brazilian piano music.

Rolim had his first lessons with his mother when he was four years old. In 1998 he was admitted to the Magda Tagliaferro School as a student of Zilda Candida dos Santos and Armando Fava Filho. In 2005 he moved to the USA and studied with Flavio Varani at Oakland University and Benjamin Pasternack at the Peabody Conservatory, where he obtained his Bachelor and Master degrees.

Currently, Ronaldo is one of very few students admitted to the Doctor of Musical Arts programme at the Yale School of Music as a student of Boris Berman. He is writing his thesis about Karol Szymanowski.

www.ronaldorolim.com

From the notes of a Jury member

His piano playing combines brilliance, virtuosity and a beautiful, warm tone. He takes delight in following his imagination and his own creativity, he seeks out colours and nuances and has a free, lyrical diction at his instrument. His strengths come especially to the fore in the soundworld of the Impressionists (*Images* by Debussy) and in the visionary poeticism of a Schumann (*Davidsbündlertänze*).

(Andrea Bonatta)

The **13th Concours Géza Anda** took place in Zurich from 6 to 6 June 2015.

The competitors’ four rounds comprised an audition, a recital, a Mozart piano concerto accompanied by the Musikkollegium Winterthur under the baton of Theodor Guschlbauer and then a final concert with the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra under Karl-Heinz Steffens.

Swiss Radio SRF2 broadcast the final round of 16 June 2015 live; the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) broadcast it throughout Europe on Euroradio.

A live video stream has been produced. The recitals, the Mozart round and the final concert can be watched at www.geza-anda.ch and on Facebook.

Jury

Jesús López-Cobos, chairman
Andrea Bonatta
Filippo Gamba
Aleksander Madzar
Bryce Morrison
Elisso Virsaladzé
Alexei Volodin
Gérard Wyss

Contact address

Géza Anda Concours
Bleicherweg 18
CH-8002 Zurich/Switzerland

Tel. +41 44 205 14 23
Fax +41 44 205 14 29

info@geza-anda.ch
www.geza-anda.ch

www.facebook.com/ConcoursGézaAnda
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Live video streaming at www.geza-anda.ch

Press clippings

... The First Prize could also have been awarded to the pianist placed third, the 29-year-old Ronaldo Rolim from Brazil, who played Rachmaninov's Concerto No. 2 exactly as one would like to hear it – without any kitsch, and devoid of all superfluous hullabaloo. Rolim did not offer any spectacle, but just music: his tone was warm and rounded, his interpretation secure and calm. One could trust this pianist that nothing would go wrong in this hellishly difficult piece. The fact that he was also awarded the Schumann Prize at the end might have been a meagre consolation to him. But to be truthful, if he gave a Schumann recital, we'd go to it straightaway.

*Susanne Kübler – Tages-Anzeiger –
18 June 2015*

... Rolim possesses the best control of sound and legato. He enjoys the roaring chords typical of the composer, without thickening them with the pedal. Instead, the piano part remains transparent and at times breathes in long, arching, melodic lines ... in the middle movement, he modestly surrounds the clarinet solo with softly sounding echoes, and otherwise also engages very organically with the Tonhalle Orchestra.

*Christian Wildhagen – Neue Zürcher Zeitung –
18 June 2015*

Repertoire

Recitals

Programme suggestion I

Schumann
Waldszenen, Op. 82

Messiaen
Pétites esquisses d'oiseaux

Scriabin
Sonata No. 7, Op. 64 (White Mass)

Interval

Beethoven
Sonata No. 29 in B-flat major, Op. 106
(Hammerklavier)

Programme suggestion II

Chopin
Two Nocturnes, Op. 55
Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

Szymanowski
Masques, Op. 34

Interval

Szymanowski
Métopes, Op. 29

Chopin
Three Mazurkas, Op. 56
Polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53

Piano concertos

Beethoven

Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15
Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 19
Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37
Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58
Concerto No. 5 in E flat major, Op. 73

Bernstein

Symphony No. 2 (*The Age of Anxiety*)

Brahms

Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15
Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 83

Chopin

Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11

Dohnányi

Variations on a Nursery Theme, Op. 25

Grieg

Concerto in A minor, Op. 16

Liszt

Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major

Mendelssohn

Capriccio Brillant in B minor, Op. 22

Mozart

Concerto No. 9 in E-flat major, K. 271
Concerto No. 17 in G major, K. 453
Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467
Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K. 491

Prokofiev

Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26

Rachmaninov

Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18
Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30
Concerto No. 4 in G minor, Op. 40

Ravel

Concerto for the Left Hand

Tchaikovsky

Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23