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Simon Ghraichy in Augmented Piano

English translation of the complete available article text, prepared with local machine translation and checked against the source. The original PDF remains the reference.

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Tuesday, November 7th at 8.30 pm (Auditorium Parco della Musica, Sala Petrassi), in collaboration with Romaeuropa Festival, French pianist Simon Ghraichy, internationally recognized as a rock star of piano virtuosity, will be the protagonist of an evening dedicated to piano and electronics. Augmented Piano is a recital that creates a bridge between the great “classical” repertoire, such as Bach’s Prelude and Fugue BWV 543 and Sonata in si minor of Liszt and the contemporary one, represented by Jacopo Baboni Schilingi’s piano and live computer (commissioned by the Accademia di Santa Cecilia and in first absolute execution) “enhancing”, without betraying the expressive technology. Simon Ghraichy and the composer Baboni Schilingi for several years form a duo that studies and nourishes the relationship "man/machine" and the possible relationships between human intelligence, rational and emotional, and computer algorithms (or artificial intelligence).

At the end of each track, the pianist will touch a small myAir breathing sensor (which recovers in real time all the physiological data of breathing) leaned to the piano that will start recording a compound and recorded interlude in which the final of the composition just finished turns, in a few seconds, into the beginning of the later composition. This dialogue will be visible thanks to the projection of a video projected on a large screen and that is generated in real time following the breathing of the pianist. As the composer himself said, “Thanks to this technology of breathing, Sonata creates a creative ambivalence. It is, in its generation phase (the sounds generated by the computer) a work “thinked” and, in its interactive phase, a work lived (the breathing of the pianist)””.

Biotechnology

Simon Ghraichy

Simon Ghraichy is a pianist with overwhelming energy, powerful touch and impeccable rhythm. Ghraichy has lived in France since he was four years old and feels French in the heart, but being a son of Mexican mother and Lebanese father, he is also closely linked to the cultures of his parents and devotes himself to famous and less known composers of Latin America. Ghraichy demonstrates that their music is not less challenging than that of their European colleagues, and regularly performs compositions of Heitor Villa-Lobos, Arturo Márquez, Ernesto Lecuona or Gabriela Ortíz along with works of composers such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert and Robert Schumann. In addition to performing in the capitals of music, he held concerts in Mali for the French and American soldiers, played in the Roman Forum of the ancient city of Baalbek and performed in a refugee camp in Indonesia.

Simon Ghraichy worked with orchestras such as the American Symphony Orchestra, the symphonic orchestras of the States of Mexico and Brazil, the Lebanon Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cairo Symphony Orchestra, the Almaty Symphony Orchestra and the Guadalajara Youth Orchestra. In 2016 he signed a contract with the Deutsche Grammophon label, for which he recorded two albums acclaimed by the public and critics: in 2026 Héritages (with music by Debussy, Falla, Granados,

Villa-Lobos, Márquez and others) and in 2019 “33” (music by Schumann, Tarrega, Ramirez, Nyman, Glass, Baboni Schilingi). Simon Ghraichy's discography also includes a recording of the Sonata in si minor by Liszt, Kreisleriana by Schumann and a first album entirely dedicated to the paraphrases and transcriptions of Franz Liszt.

Simon Ghraichy joined the Conservatoire à rayonnement régional de Boulogne-Billancourt at the age of 16, then studied at the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique in Paris and at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. After receiving numerous awards, Ghraichy's career took off following an enthusiastic review by journalist Robert Hughes published on the Wall Street Journal.

Jacopo Baboni Schilingi

Jacopo Baboni Schilingi, born in Milan in 1971, comes from the so-called “cult” music that combines writing and interactivity. The international press describes it as one of the most representative composers of his generation. He is regularly invited to concerts and performances in the “class” theatres of the whole world including the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Opéra Comique, Philharmonie of Paris, Teatro Studi, Teatro Dal Verme His works with electronics were performed at locations such as Sanlitung Village in Beijing, UniCredit Pavilion in Milan, Streaming Museum in New York. In 35 years of artistic activity, Baboni Schilingi has created more than 60 monograph concerts and more than 500 artistic events between concerts, performances and installations in 33 countries around the world.

His work with Arman in the 2000s started a series of creations with Miguel Chevalier, Alain Palais Fleischer, Elias Crespin, Sarkis. In 2015 he participated twice in the Venice Biennale: he created music for the Pavilion of Turkey (Respiro della voce) and the concert for the closing day in the Sala delle Armi. Baboni Schilingi has written music for great sponsors like Hermès and From 2018 to 2020 the composer was sponsored by Chanel for a series of residences, a monograph concert and a monograph exhibition in Tokyo.

Jacopo Baboni Schilingi's music was recorded by record companies such as Deutsche Grammophon, Harmonia Mundi, Parathy, Telos Music, Mandala Music. He studied composition with Ivan Fedele, Brian Ferneyhough and Klaus Huber. From 1997 to 2003, Luciano Berio chose Jacopo as an apprentice.

Tuesday 7 November at 20.30

Auditorium Parco della Musica Ennio Morricone – Sala Petrassi

piano Simon Ghraichy

live computer Jacopo Baboni Schilingi

Electroacoustic incipit

Bach-Liszt Prelude and Escape BWV 543

Electroacoustic interlude

Liszt Sonata in si minori

Electroacoustic interlude

Baboni Schilingi Sonata for piano and live computer

first absolute execution, commission of the National Academy of Santa Cecilia

In collaboration with Romaeuropa Festival

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