Prisca Benoît, piano

Prisca Benoît is a French pianist known for her intense and powerful sound, and for a refined pianistic touch with countless range of colors. The combination of her wild temperament and rare sensitivity reveals her charismatic personality, creating a special and unique interpretation.

Benoît started playing the piano at the age of three. Her musical talent was revealed and encouraged by a celebrated French cellist Pierre FOURNIER. After preliminary studies at the Conservatory of Nice, she entered the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris under the guidance of Professor Jacques Rouvier for piano and Jean Mouillere for chamber music. After graduating with special honors in 1986, she continued her studies at the University of Indiana in Bloomington with Professor Gyorgy Sebok. Additional mentorship came from eminent pianists such as Aldo Ciccolini, Bruno Rigutto, Cyprien Katsaris, Pascal Devoyon, Nikita Magaloff and Pierre Barbizet.

Benoît has been a winner of international competitions such as Alfred Cortot in Milan 1981, Maria Callas in Athens 1990 and Dublin 1991. Since then she has performed with famous orchestras including Bordeaux-Aquitaine, Capitole of Toulouse, New Japan Philharmonic, National Symphonic Orchestra of Dublin in venues such as the Salle Pleyel and Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, Theatre de la Monnaie in Bruxelles, and Lincoln Center New York.

Benoît regularly appears as soloist and chamber musician, performing throughout North and Latin America, Europe, Asia and Middle East. Her recitals are often broadcasted by France Musique and Radio Classique. The solo discography of Scarlatti’s Sonatas and Mozart piano Works was highly acclaimed by critics in France and abroad.

Her chamber music partners are, among others, Roland Daugareil, Roland Pidoux, Michel Michalakakos, Gérard Poulet, Philippe Muller, Jean-Jacques Kantorow, Jacques Rouvier and most recently Mladen Tcholitch. These partnerships resulted in several CD releases: Brahms Piano Quartets and Quintet, Violin Sonatas, as well as series of Walzes for two pianos.

In addition to a busy performing schedule, Benoît enjoys a brilliant academic career, teaching at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris (CNSM) as Assistant Professor to Jacques Rouvier. Gifted with superior pedagogical skills, she is regularly invited to give master classes at the International Academies of Music of Nice, Courchevel, Prades, Biarritz, Sardaigne and throughout the world, hopping from the USA to Korea, the Middle East to South America. Constantly looking for pedagogical innovation, Benoît has incorporated the principles of “haptonomy,” a paramedical specialty, into her piano teaching. Since 2008, Benoît collaborates with the neurologist and neuroscientist Dr. Kamal Chemali, the founder of the Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine Institute. Their active engagement in researching the relation between music and medicine resulted in organization of scientific symposia « Music and the Brain ». These lecture-concerts are meeting a great interest all over the world.