



NEWS *from Young Concert Artists, Inc.*

Bella Hristova, violinist

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Sarasota, FL January 22, 2018

Artist Series Concerts presents masterful performance



Bella Hristova (pictured) and Amy Yang performed Jan. 21 for Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota.

Sunday afternoon, the Artist Series Concerts presented violinist Bella Hristova, winner of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and Young Concert Artists International Auditions, in recital, together with pianist Amy Yang. Hristova, Bulgarian born but American reared and educated, is an outstanding young violinist, whose appearances already include Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City and many international venues.

Hristova's program included works by Poulenc, Ravel, and Brahms, as well as a contemporary piece by David Ludwig, who also happens to be her husband. His "Swan Song," written in 2013 was premiered by Benjamin Beilman, who performed earlier this season with the Sarasota Orchestra. Hristova told us that "Swan Song" was inspired by Schubert, including several quotes from his violin works. It is both virtuosic and rhapsodic, with the alternating dialogue between piano and violin being at times lyrical and at others, bombastic.

Ravel's Sonata No. 1 in A minor is an early work, although it was only published after his death. With its stream of consciousness impressionism and chords, it sounds more like Debussy than Ravel, yet it shows Ravel's unique sense of color and personal melodic gift.

Throughout the recital Hristova played with great beauty of sound, melodic sweep, and flawless intonation, equally partnered by Amy Yang's eloquent pianism. All were most evident in the final work, Brahms' Sonata No. 2 in A Minor for Violin and Piano. This sonata is a work in which soloist and pianist are indeed true partners. Both Hristova and Yang offered intensity, technique and musicality equal to the magnificence of Brahms' composition.

The Violin Sonata of Francis Poulenc, which opened the program, was written in 1943 during the German occupation of France. Even so, it still contains Poulenc's wonderful Gallic and often quirky musical sense of humor, evident in all his works. Both recitalists performed it with expertise, musicality, and abandon appropriate for this underrated composer.

Yes, it was another week of musical feasts in Sarasota, with more to come, I'm sure.

by: Edward Alley, Contributor