



Edgar Moreau, cellist

La Provence

Edgar Moreau: Champagne for every piece

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It would be a mistake indeed to think that Edgar Moreau's teenage look conceals a lack of technique or depth. In fact, the cello prodigy, who will turn 20 years old this year, belongs to the family of the greatest artists of all time.

Audiences here in Provence who had the chance to hear him in concert with David Kadouch at the Criée hall in Marseille in 2013 or in Aix at the Festival de Pâques are already familiar with his virtuosity and know that his medal at the *Victoires de la musique* won that same year was well-deserved. On Friday night, the audience at the Jeu de Paume gave him an enthusiastic ovation in recognition of a divinely magical evening, which offered the perfect marriage of excellent performance and the right choice of repertoire.



This talented young artist proved that everything the public in Aix had come to believe about him at the Festival de Paques was true. First we must point out how deeply pianist Pierre-Yves Hodique (born in 1988) immersed himself in the musical universe created by Edgar Moreau. With restraint and dexterity, he did more than just accompany the cellist, enriching the performance with his own creative spirit. From Victorio Monti which opened the recital, all the way to Tchaikovsky's *Valse sentimentale* which Moreau played for an encore, the cellist offered a richly varied repertoire, shifting easily from Fauré to Dvorak, from Schubert to Glazonov, and from Saint-Saëns to Chopin, with an arrangement for piano and cello of his *Polonaise brillante, op. 3*.

Displaying his virtuosity, especially in the impeccable execution of Paganini's *Variations sur une seule corde* and David Popper's *Danse des elfes*, Moreau creates a keen sense of poetry with his bowing. Very expressive without going overboard, he becomes one with his cello (particularly in Dvorak's *Waldesruhe*); the young soloist plays to serve the music rather than to show off his technical skills.

The result was a sublime moment of transcendence which quickly convinced us that this precocious talent is fast on his way to becoming a mainstay of the European musical scene. Moreau, Champagne for every piece? It sounds like a cheap slogan, but the ad is in no way misleading.