The Georgian pianist Alexander Korsantiya dazzles the Victoria-Hall

Classical music/ The Arthur Rubinstein Festival fires off and reveals a young pianist worthy of the greatest.

Too bad for those who had turned their curiosity off and who were therefore unable to discover Alexander Korsantiya. This pianist comes from Georgia and won in 1995 he First Prize of the Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition, held in Tel-Aviv. Tuesday evening at the Victoria Hall, he came to confirm the judges choice by giving a masterful opening concert to the music festival dedicated to Arthur Rubinstein.

This young pianist fascinated us from end to end of his recital. To the intelligence of a programme conceived to show off every facet of his talent, Alexander Korsantiya added the art of laying out for the audience a perfectly coherent musical path. From Haydn to Prokofiev, stopping by Chopin, one could not wish for better, in as much as this young artist has everything in hand to create the most subtle contrasts. He masters the delicate, light and sober touch that is becoming for Haydn. His fluid playing ensures a clear construction of sound levels, without any excess or affectation. Korsantiya therefore installs the listener in a serene traquility and a soothing atmosphere, subtly shaken up throughout five Mazurkas and Chopin's First Sherzo.

In these pieces, Korsantiya started to show off his sound scope, varying the lightening and the colour in order to produce a never ending passion. The articulation of his touch would have deserved here more firmness to sustain the originality of Chopin's rythmical element. Where one expected a more vindictive spurt, Alexander Korsantiya prefered a more intimist language. Was he stepping back only to then jump better? Prokofiev's 8th. Sonata jumped out at our faces. What masterful style and construction, what a keen perception of the dynamic progression, what lucidity in passing from the most transparent climates to the most diabolical violence which impregnates Prokofiev's work. And already Korsantiya has mastered the art of avoiding grandiloquence and easy effects! A great gust of inspiration blew through this performance. One can conclude by saying that one finds in Alexander Korsantiya a perfect harmony between the virtuoso, the pianist and the artist.

Albin Jacquier/ La Tribune de Genève