The Rubinstein Festival starts off very well

Georgia is a land of bards and legends. Of this, Geneva's music lovers who attended tuesday evening the first concert of the Festival dedicated to Arthur Rubinstein had a brilliant proof. In the Victoria Hall, unfortunately half empty, the Georgian pianist Alexander Korsantiya, aged 30, gave a recital of rare expressive power, in a very personal style split between interiority and theatricality.

First Prize of the Rubinstein Competition in Tel-Aviv in 1995, the Georgian pianist has nothing of a "competition showpiece". His Haydn (Sonata in f minor, Hob.XVI/23) astonished by its ever tranquility and fascinated by its absolute sonority control. Five Mazurkas and Chopin's First Scherzo carried the listener away into a dreamy and unpredictable world, brightly coloured and led by free and imaginative, although never mannered, phrasings.

After the pause, Prokofiev's monumental 8th. Sonata revealed a performer of an extraordinary broad build, who can move with astounding ease from the most translucent softness to the most apocalyptical violence. A whirling Scarlatti Sonata, a gripping Stravinski Tango… when it came to the encores, Alexander Korsantiya proved that he can also smile! He'll be playing friday Mozart's 27th. Concerto with the Israel Camerata: the date is a must!

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