

SCHUBERT & GIULIANI (SFZ records, SFZ 1009, distribution CDA)

Two composers from 19th century Vienna on a new flute and guitar cd

When the Italian guitarist and composer Mauro Giuliani settled down in Vienna in 1806 he had in his mind to be a member of the great musical life in the circles of composers as Beethoven, Haydn and Hummel. And Giuliani had a great success. In a very short time he became very popular both as a guitarist and a composer and he toured all around Europe and many of his works were published. On a drawing from that time you see a man with great self-confidence and a ring in his right ear. But after 13 years in Vienna Giuliani had to leave the town, as his bank accounts as well as his property was confiscated by the debtors and in 1819 he fled back to Italy where he spent the last years of his life in Naples. There he performed together with his daughter Emilia who made her debut as a virtuoso guitarist in her early teenages.

Franz Schubert were born 16 years after Giuliani, and during his lifetime he never became as popular as his colleague. His chamber music was mostly performed on private occasions among friends, musicians and poets and he was a bad businessman and an even worse self-promoter. He mostly did what his friends wished him to do, and when he was asked to write a Sonata for the in 1823 invented instrument "Arpeggione" he did so. The Arpeggione, or the "Guitarre-Violoncell" was a guitar played as a cello, with frets, played with a bow and hold between the knees. The instrument never became frequently used, and when the Sonata was published in 1871 it had not been used for decades. This is why the Sonata in A minor always is heard in transcriptions – mostly for the violoncello and viola. Nowadays it has also frequently been played on the clarinet, violin or flute, but with piano accompaniment. On this new cd Mats and Johannes Möller present one of the rare recordings of the Sonata performed on flute and guitar. It should not be too far from the intentions of Schubert to perform the piano part on the guitar because the sound of the modern guitar is related to the sound of the fortepiano of Schubert's days. Even if Schubert did not compose for the guitar, we know that he owned an instrument and probably used it when composing many of his Lieder.

On the cd Mats and Johannes Möller play two virtuoso Sonatas by Giuliani and besides the mentioned Arpeggione Sonata Johannes Möller performs a version of Schubert's song *Ständchen* – in an arrangement from 1844 by Johann Kaspar Mertz, who also worked in Vienna.

It was in Vienna the flute and guitar duo was established in the beginning of the 19th century and with this recording the Duo 2xm is looking back to their roots. Earlier this year they released a cd with contemporary music (SFZ 1007).

Further information about the production and press pictures: www.sfz.se/1009.

The cd is distributed through CDA (Compact Distribution AB), Sweden, +46 8 442 11 20, +46 8 442 11 33 (fax), info@cda.se.