

Trio Rafale

Biography

Maki Wiederkehr: piano

Daniel Meller: violin

Flurin Cuonz: violoncello

"If young musicians get together for playing chamber music it is always a treat. But to listen to the young Trio Rafale no journey should be too long."

The opener of an article by Oberbadische Zeitung in 2016 about the promising piano trio from Switzerland who carries the French name for a gust of wind, which can be a rough blast or just a warm breeze. Together, agitation and calm are a metaphor for movement in the form of music.

An offer to perform Ravel's piano trio in spring of 2008 brought the three young students of the Zurich University of the Arts together. After the concert, they decided to pursue working together and started studying with Eckart Heiligers. From 2014 to 2015 the Trio Rafale was coached by Rainer Schmidt in Basel. Furthermore, they received valuable artistic input from Eberhard Feltz and Bernhard Greenhouse among others.

Since its foundation the trio has performed numerous concerts in all major cities of Switzerland and was a guest in 2012 at the "Lenzburgiade" and the "Hitzacker Musiktage" among others. In summer of 2013 the Trio Rafale made their successful debut in Paris and was invited once more to Hitzacker. They were on tour in autumn 2013 with the Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Kai Bumann performing Beethoven's triple concerto.

In the past seasons the trio played concerts in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, Ulm as well as at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and the Davos Festival - young artists in concert.

Highlights have also been their debut at the Wigmore Hall London (October 2014) with the Swiss Ambassador's Award Concert, followed by performances in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast, as well as concerts at the Prague Spring Festival and at the "Niedersächsische Musiktage" in Hannover. During the season 2015/16 the Trio Rafale was performing in the Berlin Philharmonie, the "Alte Oper" in Frankfurt and in Moscow at the "December Nights of Sviatoslav Richter" among others. In November 2015 they were extensively touring Japan followed by a concert in South Korea (Tongyeong Concert Hall).

The Trio Rafale won 1st prizes at the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition (July 2011) and the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition (May 2014). Both are among the most prestigious chamber music competitions in the world. Also worth noting are the 1st prize at the "Concours National pour Trio Instrumental Prix Geraldine Whittaker" of the Jeunesses Musicales de Suisse (2010) as well as the 1st prize and the audience prize at the Migros Culture Percentage Ensemble Award 2013. In 2014 the trio was awarded an important scholarship by the city of Zurich, distinguishing their musical achievements. In 2016 they made a guest appearance at Lucerne Festival with works of Beethoven, Boulanger and Schoenberg. Since the same year the trio is part of the Mentoring Program of Beethoven-Haus in Bonn. In this context the trio will play a debut concert in spring 2017. Highlights of the current season are an engagement at Konzerthaus Berlin and a collaboration with the Kammerphilharmonie Graubünden.

Their debut CD with works by Schumann and Ravel appeared in 2012 (label monton). A second CD with works by Vasks and Brahms was released in 2013 (label Acousence).

Soon they will be launching a new CD with early works of Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovitch and Henze, further a piece written for the trio by Swiss composer Jannik Giger.

<http://triorafale.com>

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