



Interesting synthesis between Steinway and Bechstein

The Polish pianists Anna and Ines Walachowski inspired their audience with a superior programme and stylised interpretation.

The two Polish pianists Anna and Ines Walachowski contributed greatly to this synthesis, who through their sensitive approach showed immense feeling for the need to bring the two different sounds closer, and with considerable emotion showed the polished perfection of their programme. [...]

The synchronised precision of the two sisters from Breslau, who have been playing together since 1996 and who have been showered with awards, took the audience by surprise. They achieved a playful correspondence between the two instruments in feathery and flocculent sequences in the opening movement, as a stark contrast to the metered out energetic escalation. A particular listening pleasure was the melodic Andante with its delicate interpretation of its gentle melodies and the sensitive tenderness achieved without sentimentality. The two pianists then played the final movement with its rapid and exciting passages with so much esprit that clearly showed their virtuosity and technical perfection.

Impressive success of lyrical romantic motifs.

In the two slow movements one was positively captivated by the musical excellence, and it was possible to imagine the ballerinas on stage. A wish could have been to dance to the spritely interpreted waltz at the end. [...]

Grainger played with the thematic material of the opera, and the two pianists succeeded in an excellent presentation of the interchanging moods and emotions, for example the tender aria sung by Bess or the scene with the arrogant "Spotinlife". The enthralling fast moving orchestral finish was a piano highlight. The long applause of the enthusiastic audience was rewarded by the duet in a rendition of Brahms' Hungarian Dance Nr. 5.

GERNSBACH

"In particular the piano vignettes by Francaix, Schostakowitsch, Milhaud, Gottschalk, Poulenc, und Infante stood out and imparted virtuous light-footed eleganz."

SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, 24th March 2009

A visit from the pianists Anna and Ines Walachowski was an extraordinary piece of luck -

...transported by the Polish pianists Anna and Ines Walachowski into a world full of warmth, grace and a fascinating sound experience."

...sometimes light and dreamy, and then strong and turbulent, their perfectly coordinated double playing allowed the five movements of Gabriel Fauré's Dolly-Suite op. 56 to blossom and unfold.

DER PATRIOT, 17th March 2009

"and last Sunday the highly talented piano-sisters inspired an enthusiastic audience once more with their ability."

"extraordinary musicality and stage presence."

WESTFALENPOST, 11th March 2009



Quotes**W a l a c h o w s k i**

“For over two hours the sisters showed that they could more than live up to their reputation that hastened before them. In the mirrored hall they harmonised with their usual perfection and with an extraordinary stage presence. Without beating about the bush and with instinctive certainty they opened the concert with variations by Chopin.”

“Once again the long established perfect coordination of the two pianists was tangible in the concert hall.”

MENDENER ZEITUNG, 10th March 2009

“What the two sisters made out of Dvorak, Strawinsky, Bizet and Fauré was so excellent that they were greeted by profound applause.”

WESTFAELISCHE NACHRICHTEN, 22nd February 2009

A work just made for the two sisters Anna and Ines Walachowski. Taking turns to take the lead, with consummate ease they answer each other in staggered octaves. These two young women combine technical perfection and virtuosity with an enchanting differentiation of tone colour. In the cadenzas they shine through their rippling touch. They have an extraordinary ability to develop Mozart's original and diverse motifs with their cultivated touch. Not only this, this piano duo is certainly nobody's fool when it comes down to unsurpassable fluency and ensemble playing. There is no doubt that Mozart's double concertos are in the best possible hands.

NDR CD-TIP DER WOCHE (CD TIP OF THE WEEK), 5th August 2006

A highlight of the evening was the performance by the pianists Anna and Ines Walachowski. With formal and musical finesse, their intermezzi for four hands or on two pianos created a magnificent supporting programme.

RHEINISCHE POST, 13th March 2006

Mozart's Concerto for two pianos and orchestra in E-flat number 365 often tempts soloists to want to show off the ingenious presentation of their musical interpretation. Not in the case of the Polish sisters Anna and Ines Walachowski, who renounced any such showy behaviour in their elegant but unpretentious performance, and convinced with an exquisite and tasteful interpretation. Thanks to their polished and precise touch these interpreters succeeded in moving within a dynamic ambit which consciously did not exhaust the full capability of the available instruments, thus producing a complex faceted display of the diverse and original motifs.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, 6th February 2006



What made the sisters' playing so fascinating and extraordinary? It was the complete ease with which they approached the performance. With absolute calm, as if it were the most natural thing in the world, completely lacking in Titan gestures at the piano, they played with such liveliness and expression, with so much spirit and wit, that it was impossible not to be both impressed and cheered. It was a lesson in touch with transparent non-legato playing, and wonderful cantilena in the peaceful second movement, but also a lesson in both fluency and co-operation: the parallel semi-quaver passages went accurately together, and even the trills, of which Mozart made so much use in this piece, seemed to be as one.

... for their encore the pianists excelled with an Andalusian dance for two pianos by Manuel Infante. And here there was no room for reserve or subtlety, for here orchestral qualities were the order of the day. The sisters showed these qualities, of that there was no doubt, and in contrast their two instruments looked humble in the face of such tonal demands.

MAINECHO, 27th January 2006

... with this duo, even the fastest passages possess the atmosphere of easy lightness and unobtrusive noblesse. Rhythmical and harmonic stumbling blocks are effortlessly overcome, and the two players remain so relaxed and produce such a cantabile tone, as if they are letting simple nursery rhymes ripple from the keys of their two pianos.

FRÄNKISCHE LANDESZEITUNG, 25th January 2006

... they found their way to fantastic perfection, to a perfect corroboration, from performance, style and intelligent interpretation through to the establishment of an individuality, such as is only expressed in personal signature, and which is absolutely essential here.

THÜRINGISCHE LANDESZEITUNG, 18th November 2005

Good mood at the highest possible level

When Anna and Ines Walachowski perform, everything is just right – whether the tempo, the balance of co-ordination, the fine rhythm (no 'echoes' here) or the dynamism. The 'Andante' lived from the soft cantabile playing that Mozart expected from both himself and his students, the final rondo 'Allegro molto' exuded good mood at the highest possible level!

... Piano specialities such as repetition or tremolo, but also dynamism and the creation of a particular sound were in the best of hands.

SÜDKURIER, 18th May 2005

Immersed in the tonally interesting and technically demanding fantasy on Gershwin's „Porgy and Bess“ by Percy Grainger, the Walachowskis found a sphere for their musical temperament and technical refinement which pleased the audience.

RHEINISCHE POST, June 11th, 2004

Full of savageness and melancholy. On two pianos, the Walachowski sisters gave a great concert. This season's last piano soirée with the Walachowski duo was thoroughly enjoyable. The two sisters were a feast for eyes and ears alike that delighted the audience.

WESTDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, June 10th, 2004



Quotes**W a l a c h o w s k i**

Together with the pianists Anna and Ines Walachowski the Orchestra of Halle created convincing musical portraits. Their interpretations aroused enthusiasm among the audience at the municipal theatre.

FÜRTHER NACHRICHTEN, May 10th, 2004

Music as if carved in stone. No wonder that the Hungarian Dances by Brahms were performed in the highest intensity imaginable and with frequent variations of the basic tempi.

FÜRSTENFELDBRUCKER SÜDZEITUNG, May 5th, 2004

Polish sisters prove their great virtuosity.

... virtuous technique, sensitive and full of feeling for style.

TAGBLATT, May 4th, 2004

Very vividly and genuinely the Walachowski sisters bring Saint-Saens' animal characters to life: gracefully sluggish the tortoise, gently calling the cuckoo, lively and pointed the finale. The audience proves to be enthusiastic about this "Carnival of the Animals".

KIELER NACHRICHTEN, March 1st, 2004

The Walachowski sisters abandon themselves with audible pleasure and great skill into the floods of Gershwin's music in a version for two pianos.

FONO FORUM, February 2004

The Walachowski sisters are much more than a cue for Willemsen: with their sensitive and colourful play they are subtly corrective if the author's poetry goes over the top. The two pianists proved their brilliant and perfectly matching touch right from the beginning of the concert with the Sonata in D-major by W.A. Mozart for two pianos. Even their visit to the zoo they master with lots of wit and tender love for detail....

BONNER GENERAL-ANZEIGER, January 26th, 2004

In the sky of piano duos, department of siblings, a new pair of stars is born: Anna and Ines Walachowski from Wroclaw. In their concert with the Karlsruhe Friends of Chamber Music they not only convinced the audience with an irresistibly sensuous program but also with their spirited interpretations full of sparkling rhythmic zest.

BADISCHE NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN, January 19th, 2004

Ever since 1995 when they formed a duo, their success indicator definitely points skyward. The successful duo shows amazing spirit at the keys.

BADISCHE NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN, January 14th, 2004



The two attractive ladies from Wroclaw have long made a name for themselves. And well earned, as this recording proves. With the arrangements by Gregory Stone, Anna and Ines Walachowski are themselves responsible for the adaptation of the "Rhapsody in Blue". Hence, this adaptation is highly effective and artistic, the more so since it is presented in a very vigorous spirit. One thing is certain: the Walachowskis definitely don't lack enthusiasm, technical brilliance and perfection of ensemble playing.

STEREOPLAY, December 2003

So they present the Cuban Overture, the "Rhapsody" of course, in a diabolically difficult arrangement, beautiful as the night sky sounding. The Walachowski sisters play it fabulously, seriously, ambitiously, worthy of a musical award.

DEUTSCHLANDFUNK, December 26th, 2003

Ever since their debut seven years ago, the musicians have established themselves firmly among recognized piano duos. On this CD dedicated to George Gershwin, the duo arouses vivacity and fire. The sisters virtuosity on their piano can simply be classified as grand. Dexterity of hand, musical intuition and perfect co-ordination make listening an exquisite delight.

BONNER GENERAL-ANZEIGER, December 12th, 2003

Roger Willemsen leads the audience through the illustrious parade of music-playing animals. Under the hands of Anna and Ines Walachowski this parade radiates new splendour.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, November 3rd, 2003

This also holds true for the Walachowski sisters, who emphasise understatement in their play more than Willemsen in his performance. The short pieces are filled with sounding animal characterisation and a cheerful guessing of motifs from musical history and sparkle with surprising wit. It is a humour that the pianists touch on only softly, but with precision – no pounding on the keys please!

FREIE PRESSE, October 25th 2003

Meanwhile, the two sisters Anna and Ines Walachowski range among the top piano duos of the world. And for good reason: While their new CD may present a well-known repertoire, the way it is presented is definitely fabulous. An intoxicatingly clear and vivid recording. Bravo!

PIANO NEWS, September 2003

It is together with Anna and Ines Walachowski, a piano duo from the Erft Area, and of course with the German Spanish director Enrique Sánchez Lansch from Berlin, that I, as a Rhinelander from Krefeld have produced a music film at the Studio A that satisfies highest aesthetic standards: good-looking female pianists, artistic stage settings, a perfect cut, inspired and unconventional directing, an exciting, rapturous and amazing musical performance. (Rudolf Heinemann on the WDR production 2003)

WDR PRINT, September 2003