

PRESS RELEASE

28 July 2011

For Immediate release

Pianist Cyprien Katsaris is pleased to advise that the next volumes from his archive of live recordings will be released internationally in September 2011. Piano21 is distributed in the UK and Europe via Codaex.

Cyprien Katsaris live at the Schubertiade Festival July 3, 1993

Cyprien Katsaris Archives • Vol. 8



P21 042-A

This Schubert recital given by Cyprien Katsaris at the "Schubertiade" Festival (Feldkirch Conservatory, Austria) on 3 July 1993 presents three masterpieces dating from shortly before the composer's death: the first two *Klavierstücke D. 946* and his last *Sonata no. 23 D. 960*, along with a set of *Ländler* and three *Lieder (Ständchen, Der Müller und der Bach and Ave Maria)*, transcribed by Liszt. In addition, Cyprien Katsaris offers improvisations on themes by Tchaikovsky and Wagner, concluding with the sublime Adagio from Marcello's *Oboe Concerto*, transcribed by Bach.

Tracklisting

CD1

**Franz Schubert** (1797-1828): Klavierstück no. 1, D. 946 E flat minor; Klavierstück no. 2, D. 946 E flat major; Ländler Suite From 16 Ländler, D. 366 ; 12 Ländler, D. 790; 12 Deutsche Tänze, D. 420; 3 Lieder [Ständchen/Der Müller und der Bach/Ave Maria (*Transcription: F. Liszt*)]

CD 2

**Franz Schubert** (1797-1828): Sonate no. 23, D. 960 B flat major; **Cyprien Katsaris** (born in 1951): Improvisation spontanée sur des thèmes de Tchaikovsky et Wagner; **Alessandro Marcello** (1669-1747): Adagio From Oboe Concerto opus 1 • D minor [*Transcription: J. S. Bach / C. Katsaris*]

Katsaris plays Liszt • Vol. 1

CD1: Gipsy and Romantic/CD2: Avant-Garde, Hommage à Wagner, The Philosopher



P21 041-N

Franz Liszt was arguably the most diverse of all composers in the range of his musical creativity. The double CD in this first volume offers us five aspects of Liszt, all equally fascinating. From "The Gypsy", with its immensely popular *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2* (Liszt's cadenzas) and the no less beautiful *Rhapsodies Nos. 3, 5 and 7* to "The Romantic", with its sublime *Love Dream No. 3*, its lyrical *Elegies* and *Klavierstücke*, along with the noble and impassioned *Concerto No. 2*, performed with the splendid Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester under the baton of Arild Remmereit. Revelatory of Liszt's avant-garde genius are the *Prelude and Funeral March, Unstern! - Sinistre* and *Grey Clouds*, with their sometimes bizarre, atonal harmonies prefiguring Scriabin, Debussy and Schoenberg. The composer's funeral homage to his friend and son-in-law Wagner is represented by the two *Mournful Gondolas, R. W. Venezia* and *At the Grave of Richard Wagner*. Lastly we come to Liszt the philosopher and the greatest of his masterpieces, the *Sonata in B Minor*, wherein we apprehend the creation of the universe and the destiny of man. The first two notes express the beginning of creation, by God or spiritual powers, according to one's beliefs. These first two Gs represent the first and second particles of matter, and the descending scale that follows gives continuity to this matter which acquires movement, simultaneously creating space and time. Then follow great leaps on both hands, an explosion, a Big Bang, akin to the origin of the universe which in turn engenders life itself. Following on comes the *Sonata*, symbolising the universe and its development, its complexity, but also the human race and its destiny, its emotions, conflicts, revolutions and moments of fulfilment. The work ends, in its final, sublime chords, in a reaching-out to immortality through the liberation of the spirit, the soul set free from the trammels of the physical universe. In this final moment of transcendence, it feels as though Liszt is offering magisterial guidance in courage and hope.

Tracklisting

**CD1 [Gipsy & Romantic] - Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Arild Remmereit**

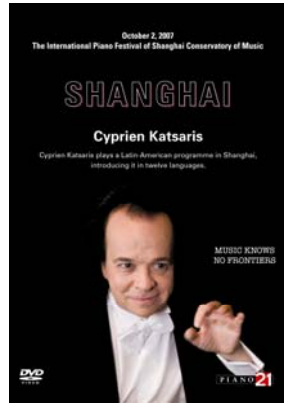
Rhapsodies Hongroises nos. 2, 3, 7 & 5; 2 Elégies; Notturmo no. 3 "Liebestraum"; Klavierstück no. 2; Klavierstücke nos. 1 – 4\*; Klavierstück no. 5 (Sospiri); Concerto for piano and orchestra no. 2\*

**CD 2 • Avant-Garde, Hommage à Wagner, The Philosopher**

Trauer Vorspiel und Trauermarsch; Unstern – Sinistre; Nuages Gris Trübe Wolken; Die Trauergondel no. 1 La Lugubre Gondola no. 1; Die Trauergondel no. 2 La Lugubre Gondola no. 2; R. W. – Venezia; Am Grabe Richard Wagners; Sonate B minor • si mineur (*private mono recording - live in France, 1973*)

Recent Releases from Cyprien Katsaris on Piano21

Live in Shanghai • October 2, 2007  
The International Piano Festival of Shanghai Conservatory of Music



P21 035-N

This DVD, an initiative of internationally renowned French-Cypriot pianist Cyprien Katsaris, UNESCO Artist for Peace, illustrates the universality of musical language. It records his recital of Latin-American music (from Peru, Paraguay, Brazil, Cuba, Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico) in Shanghai on 2 October 2007, an original programme he himself presented in French and English from the stage with Chinese interpretation. Inspired by the need for international reconciliation, especially between peoples in conflict, following his return to Paris, Cyprien Katsaris audio-dubbed an additional ten languages: Hebrew/Arabic, Greek/Turkish, Spanish/Portuguese/Italian, Russian/German and Japanese: in sum, twelve languages spoken by Cyprien Katsaris, plus Chinese and Korean by two interpreters.

The Complete Mozart Piano Concertos Vol. 7  
*Salzburger Kammerphilharmonie, Yoon Kuk Lee*



P21 039-N

In this seventh volume dedicated to concert recordings of the complete concertos of Mozart by Cyprien Katsaris and the Salzburger Kammerphilharmonie under the baton of the Korean conductor Yoon K. Lee features two special works. The first is the *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 27 in B Flat Major, K. 595*, a particular treat for music lovers, on two counts: not only is it Mozart's last Concerto, completed on 5 January 1791, but also it was to prove to be the last he ever played in public as a soloist, in the prestigious Ignaz Jahn Hall in Vienna on the following 4th of March. The *Concerto in D Major, K. 175*, considered to be his fifth, was actually the first original piece for harpsichord and orchestra of a young composer of seventeen. Concertos previously had been arrangements of harpsichord sonatas by various composers including Carl Philipp Emmanuel and Johann Christian Bach. Offered alongside one another in this album, these two works trace a unique trajectory in the history of Mozart concertos. The *Rondo for Piano and Orchestra in D Major, K. 382* is actually an alternative version of the finale of *Concerto K 175*, which Mozart often played. Settled in Vienna for good in 1781, the young composer wanted to woo his public with a light, playful piece very much attuned to the taste of the times.

# Cyprien Katsaris



## BIOGRAPHY

Cyprien Katsaris, the French-Cypriot pianist and composer, was born on May 5th 1951 in Marseilles. He first began to play the piano at the age of four, in Cameroon where he spent his childhood. His first teacher was Marie-Gabrielle Louwerse.

A graduate of the Paris Conservatoire where he studied piano with Aline van Barentzen and Monique de la Bruchollerie (piano First Prize, 1969), as well as chamber music with René Leroy and Jean Hubeau (First Prize, 1970), he won the International Young Interpreters Rostrum-Unesco (Bratislava 1977), the First Prize in the International Cziffra Competition (Versailles 1974) and he was the only western-European prize-winner at the 1972 Queen Elisabeth of Belgium International Competition. He was also awarded the Albert Roussel Foundation Prize (Paris 1970) and the Alex de Vries Foundation Prize (Antwerp 1972).

He gave his first public concert in Paris, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées on 8 May 1966, as a “Knight” of the youth competition “The Kingdom of Music”; he performed the *Hungarian Fantasy* by Franz Liszt, with the Orchestre Symphonique d’Ile-de-France conducted by René-Pierre Chouteau.

His major international career includes performances with the world’s greatest orchestras, most notably The Berlin Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Dresden, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, SWR Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra Washington D.C., Detroit Symphony, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Toronto Symphony, The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Residentz Orchestra Den Haag, Brabant Orchestra, The NHK Symphony Orchestra (Tokyo), Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, Korean Chamber Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Bucharest George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, Milan RAI Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, The Oxford Philomusica, The Auckland Philharmonia and The City of Mexico Philharmonic Orchestra whose inaugural concert’s and subsequent tour he was the featured soloist (1978). He has collaborated with conductors such as Leonard Bernstein, Mstislav Rostropovich, Sir Simon Rattle, Myung Whun Chung, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Charles Dutoit, Antal Dorati, Ivan Fischer, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Kent Nagano, James Conlon, Sir Charles Mackerras, Rudolf Barshai, Sandor Végh, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Leif Segerstam, Dmitri Kitajenko, Andrey Boreyko, Christopher Warren-Green, Zdeněk Mácal, Xian Zhang, Paul Mann, Marios Papadopoulos... and Karl Münchinger, who on the festive occasion of his farewell concert in 1986, with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, personally invited Mr. Katsaris to perform the Haydn *D major Concerto*.

In addition to his activities as a soloist he founded the “Katsaris Piano Quintet”. This has received a very enthusiastic response from both the press and audiences in the Americas, Europe and Japan.

Mr. Katsaris has recorded extensively for Teldec (Grand Prix du Disque Frédéric Chopin, Warsaw 1985; Grand Prix du Disque Franz Liszt, Budapest 1984 and 1989; British Music Retailer’s Association’s Award 1986; Record of the Year 1984, Germany, for the *9th Symphony* of Beethoven/Liszt), Sony Classical, EMI, Deutsche Grammophon, BMG-RCA, Decca, Pavane, and now on his own label, PIANO 21.

His discography consists of solo works by most of the greatest masters as well as works for piano and orchestra including Bach Concertos with the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra, Brahms’s *Concerto no. 2* with Elisha Inbal conducting the Philharmonia (London), both Concertos of Mendelssohn with Kurt Masur and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra (of which Mendelssohn had been music Director), and the complete Concertos by Mozart, recorded live and performed in Salzburg and Vienna with Yoon K. Lee and the Salzburger Kammerphilharmonie.

In addition to the standard repertory, Cyprien Katsaris has recorded, as world premières, long lost works such as the Liszt/Tchaikovsky *Concerto in the Hungarian style* with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra, Beethoven’s own piano arrangement of his ballet *The Creatures of Prometheus* and Gustav Mahler’s original piano version of *Das Lied von der Erde* with Mezzo Brigitte Fassbaender and Tenor Thomas Moser.

In 1992, the Japanese NHK TV produced with Cyprien Katsaris a thirteen-program series on Frédéric Chopin which included masterclasses and his own performance. On 17 October 1999, the New York concertgoers offered him a standing ovation in Carnegie Hall for his recital dedicated to Frédéric Chopin, performed on the day of his 150th death Anniversary. This concert was recorded (audio and video) and has been issued on the Piano 21 label. On 27 January 2006, the day of the 250th Anniversary of Mozart’s birth, he was the soloist at the inaugural concert of the Mozart Orchestra Mannheim founded and conducted by Thomas Fey. In March 2006 Cyprien Katsaris was the first pianist ever to give masterclasses in Franz Liszt’s house in Weimar since Liszt, who taught there for the very last time in 1886, the year of his death. In August 2008, he was invited to give two concerts on the occasion of the Beijing Olympic Games at the National Centre for the Performing Arts. In addition to the world premier of a concerto for ten pianos and orchestra - *China Jubilee* - by the composer Cui Shiguang, he improvised on an ancient Greek melody, and on, *inter alia*, Chinese melodies, in tribute to the universality of the Olympic Games.

Two famous film directors, Claude Chabrol and Oscar-winner François Reichenbach, have made films of Mr. Katsaris in live concert performances.

Cyprien Katsaris is mentioned in the following works: *The Great Pianists: From Mozart to the Present*; *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*; *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart: Allgemeine Enzyklopädie der Music (MGG)*; *Baker’s Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*; *Harenberg Klaviermusikführer: 600 Werke von Barock bis zur Gegenwart*; *David Dubal, The Art of the Piano: Its Performers, Literature and Recordings*.

Mr. Katsaris has been a member of the jury of the following International Competitions: Chopin (Warsaw 1990), Liszt (Utrecht 1996), Vendôme Prize (Paris 2000), Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud - Ville de Paris (2001) and Beethoven (Bonn 2005).

He has also conducted masterclasses at the Mannes College of Music, in New York City, the University of Toronto, the Salzburg Mozarteum, the Arts Academy in Mexico, The Academy of Performing Arts in Hong-Kong, the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In addition he was appointed Artistic Director of the Echternach International Festival (Luxembourg) from 1977 to 2007.

Mr. Katsaris's work has been honoured and recognized by the following awards: "Artist of Unesco for Peace" (1997), "Commandeur de l'Ordre de Mérite du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg" (2009), "Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters" (France 2000), and "Knight of Merit of Cameroon" (1977). He also received the "Vermeil Medal of the City of Paris" (2001).

"I was lucky enough to hear Cyprien Katsaris in his dazzling interpretation of Rachmaninov's *Third Concerto* and also in his magnificent performance of the last piece of my *Vingt Regards*. His steel technique, his ardour spirit and his authority, and lastly his brilliance, make Cyprien Katsaris a marvellous pianist, and I have the fullest confidence in his future."

Olivier Messiaen

"I am convinced that Cyprien Katsaris represents the greatest artistic value of his generation."

György Cziffra

"He is a major pianist and, even better, a major artist. And he has a true feeling for the romantic style."