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End of season with a “Little Prodigy of Asia”

By Alina RAMANAUSKIENĖ

**Abigail Sin, a thirteen year old virtuoso from Singapore, performed together with Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra**

Abigail Sin is a young pianist of excellent musicianship and sincerity. We had an opportunity to get acquainted with her features last year, when she participated in the Young Musicians' Festival *Kaunas*. This time, Abigail was already a soloist when she was in town.

Abigail Sin played Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Concert for Piano and Orchestra A - dur, which is one of the most beautiful and powerful piece composed by the Viennese genius. Abigail interpreted the piece which is full of contrasts with extreme sensitivity and colours, feeling the beauty of its melodic line, its logics and articulation. The girl was not discomforted by scarcely known Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra: it seemed that the young pianist had at least twenty, but not two rehearsals with this orchestra. Our orchestra, directed by Modestas Pitrenas, was also a very flexible partner to the pianist: it did not upstage her at all. And the second part of the piece the orchestra played obeyed the deeply romanticised emotions of the pianist.

Abigail Sin began to play at the age of four, and according to her mother, she does this with great responsibility. In our country, young talents are usually nurtured in families with musical background. But Abigail Sin is the sole musician in her family. Currently, the girl is studying at Bangkok's Institute of Music and Drama. Her tutor is Tomas Hecht, who carried out sensational mastership classes during the *Kaunas* festival a few years ago. Abigail Sin also studies composition, writes exciting essays, and participates in various mathematics competitions.

After the concert Abigail Sin remarked that Mozart is her favourite composer, though his pieces are a lot more difficult to perform as compared to Ferenc Liszt.

After the concert in Kaunas, Abigail Sin is making arrangements to perform in Germany and Ukraine, and after that, she will play for the audiences in different cities of the USA for six weeks.

Apropos, the quality band of Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra played during the closing concert of the season, which was pleasantly surprising as well. The fact that this band is led by a young, talented and musical director Modestas Pitrenas is rather encouraging and it lends stimulus for the future.

Having performed the overture of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with great passion and dramatic scope, the bandsmen submerged into the subtlety of Franz Schubert's *Unfinished* symphony. When listening to this gem of Romantic times, I can't help but retrace the director Jonas Aleksa (God rest his soul): *Unfinished* was one of his favourite pieces.

Maybe such an excellent quality of sound, thrilling uneasiness in the first part and the royal mystery in the second one was not achieved this time, however the completeness of the piece, high tempos, the intonation of stringed instruments (especially the sense given by the cellists) carried conviction on both a whizz, and a common listener. On the occasion of the season closure, the orchestra played the transcription of Ferenc Liszt's piano rhapsody No.2 as well. What happened afterwards is not difficult to guess: encores definitely.