



Jacqueline et William BENSIMHON (Piano - France)

The Bensimhon Duo was formed in 1989 by two musicians from national music academies, the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris and the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, with the aim of bringing to the public a repertoire that is often unknown and yet very attractive. They regularly study with Anne Queffelec, and in 1992 were unanimously awarded the First Prize for Chamber Music with Distinction by the jury of the City of Paris. In 1996, they won the International Music Tournament and were awarded the Third Prize at the Carlo Soliva International Competition in Italy.

Playing original pieces or transcriptions, in a four-handed or two-piano formation, they perform a wide variety of works ranging from Mozart to Stravinsky, including the great romantics (Brahms, Dvorak, Rachmaninov) and with numerous incursions into American music (Gershwin, etc.). They regularly give themed concerts such as "Around Dance", "Dance plays it piano(s)", "Influence of Folk Music", "American Music" or "Czech". This duo also enjoys playing with other instrumentalists (*Sonata for 2 pianos and 2 percussion* by Bartók), singers (*Liebeslieder Walzer* by Brahms), dancers (choreography on Stravinsky's *Concerto for 2 pianos*) or even with orchestra (*Concertos for 2 pianos* by Mozart).

Invited by a number of event organizers, the Bensimhon Duo has performed all over France (Paris, Saint-Cloud, Vichy, Nantes, Prades, Limoges and its region, etc.), as well as in various festivals (Château de Pimpéan, Festival de Vassivière, Festival Romantique d' Eymoutiers, Sète, Festival Itinéraire Musical, Rebeyrolle Museum, etc.).

In 2003, the Bensimhon Duo was chosen by the ATCRL (Agence Technique Culturelle de la Région Limousin) and the Limousin region to give recitals on campus and throughout the region. Since 2005, the duo has multiplied its actions in favour of the development and awareness of young audiences through the presentation of concert activities in many schools in order to participate in a wider dissemination of so-called "classical" music among young people.

Jacqueline and William Bensimhon, both holders of the French piano teaching diploma, teach at the C.R.R. in Limoges and hold an annual two- and four-handed piano training course in Panazol (87).

They also give masterclasses for Conservatory students or students in the professional cycle (CESMD de Poitiers, CRD de Châteauroux...).

The duo Jacqueline and William Bensimhon has just released an album entitled "American Music" focusing on the works of Milhaud and Gershwin.