

Chairman's Letter

It gives me great pleasure to present the gifted Brazilian pianist Linda Bustani as she gives her concert at the Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall in London.

Praised by the critics as an exceptional pianist Linda Bustani is one of the most brilliant South American performers of the instrument, who have burst onto the international music in recent years. She was a student of Arnaldo Estrella in Río de Janeiro. A prize winner at the Vianna da Mota International Piano Competition in Lisbon at the age of 15, and also studied with Elisso Virsaladze and Iakov Zak at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. She went on to receive awards at international competitions in Río de Janeiro and Bratislava, but it was her highly acclaimed participation in the 1974 Leeds International Piano Competition that brought her into the limelight and launched her international piano career.

She has given concerts in Portugal, the Netherlands (*Concertgebouw*), Belgium, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia, the Ukraine, Georgia, Japan, Mexico, the United States, South America and, of course in Brazil, followed her Leeds appearance. She subsequently performed as soloist with the New Philharmonia, the Bournemouth Symphony, the City of Birmingham Symphony, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the BBC Welsh, the BBC Scottish, the Hallé and the Bratislava Symphony, under the direction of celebrated conductors, such as Simon Rattle, Charles Grove, William Tausky, Anatoli Fistoujari, Louis Fremeaux and Okko Kamu. As recently as 2003 she won the Carlos Gómes Prize as "Best Pianist of the Year", the most prestigious musical award in Brazil and since then she is building up her intensive international career.

This recital marks the return of Linda Bustani to the London music scene with a programme of classical master pieces for piano by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), "*Piano Sonata No 21 in C Major, Opus 53*", Sergei Sergeevich Prokofiev (1891-1935), "*Piano Sonata Op 28 No 3*" Robert Schumann (1810-1856), "*Fantasia in C Major Opus 17 - 1836*". To most people today Brazil is inseparable from the composer Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959) and he in turn appears inseparable from the short pieces he wrote for piano which expresses tender feelings of joy as in his *Valsa da dor* played in tonight's concert.

With regard to her latest CD released in New York, The American magazine *Fanfarre* stated that *the phenomenal Brazilian pianist Linda Bustani offers what is arguably the greatest performance of Schumann's Kreisleriana, Op. 16 on disc.*

As Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society (LACCS), I welcome Linda Bustani's appearance in the concert scenario at the Royal Festival Hall and I am quite sure that you will enjoy her performance. She is an outstanding representative of Brazil in the field of classical music for piano.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the sponsors for helping to make the concert a successful evening.



Professor J R Monroy

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