

NEW RELEASE MUSO

May 2016

3 re-releases

Historical recordings

Queen Elisabeth Competition - Piano

Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden (1964)

Abdel Rahman El Bacha (1978)

Frank Braley (1991)



To mark the 75th anniversary of the Ysaÿe and Queen Elisabeth Competition, muso released two box sets of concertos from the great repertoire for the two instruments the Queen Elisabeth Competition has focused on down the years: the violin and the piano.

But the Competition's archives are teeming with musical nuggets: they form an extraordinary repository, immortalising performances over nearly 80 years. So it seemed like a good idea to revive those recordings, not just of works performed with an orchestra, but also drawing on the chamber music programmes of the semi-finals and finals.

In this first series of re-releases, we celebrate three pianists, to each of whom we have devoted a complete CD. First up, **Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden**, an outstanding and important artist who has been a key figure in Belgian musical life for nearly 60 years and who made his breakthrough in 1964, when he was third laureate of the Competition at just 16 years of age! Next, the Franco-Lebanese pianist **Abdel Rahman El Bacha**, who should really have figured in previous re-releases and who made an unforgettable impression in 1978, thanks both to the serenity radiated by a young man of 19 years of age and to his incredibly musical playing and mastery of form, of sonority, and of different styles. The third in this trio is **Frank Braley**, who came first in 1991 and won everyone over right from the start of that year's competition; although he claimed that, at 22, he wasn't ready yet to face such a test, he treated his listeners to a moment of poetry and music that none of them have ever forgotten.

The work of showcasing, in the best technical conditions possible, this vast heritage is making it possible for us today to relive the great occasions of the competition that is such an important part of musical life in Brussels and that, year after year for more than 75 years, has evoked the same emotions in generations of music-lovers.

Deciding who should be included in this first wave of re-releases has not been easy: we can think of many other greats who have left their mark on the history of the Queen Elisabeth Competition, in particular the superb Soviet - later, Russian - and US pianists who 'clashed' in music competitions over many years. We mention them just to whet listeners' appetites for future re-releases: to be continued...

Total time: 3h28'33"

Slip case

3 digipaks with booklets 16 pages

Texts by Michel Stockhem in English, French and Dutch

Recordings 1964 - 1978 - 1991

Restored and remastered in 2016

Reference: MU-999 - Bar code: 5425019979997

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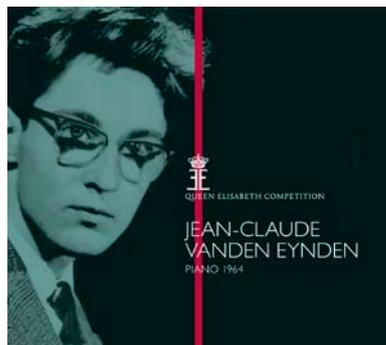
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Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden

Queen Elisabeth Competition – Piano 1964



Robert SCHUMANN (1810-1856) – 12 Etudes symphoniques, Op. 13
Franz LISZT (1811-1886) – Piano concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, S. 124
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770-1827) – Piano concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15

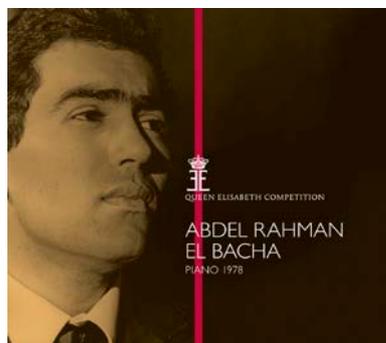
Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden, piano
National Orchestra of Belgium
Franz André & Frits Celis, conductors

Total time: 76'33"
Recordings 1964
Reference: MU-012 – Bar code: 5425019973124

Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden was only sixteen when he became a laureate of the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 1964. That highly valued honour marked the launch of a brilliant career that has taken him to the world's finest concert halls and the most celebrated festivals in Korea, Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands, France and of course Belgium. He has been invited to play with a great many symphony and chamber orchestras, including the St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (London), the Residentie Orkest of The Hague, and the National Orchestra of Belgium. He has worked with eminent conductors such as Paul Kletzky, Rudolf Barshai, and Yuri Temirkanov. As a chamber musician he has played with a number of outstanding Belgian and international partners, including Véronique Bogaerts, Marie Hallynck, Augustin Dumay, Silvia Marcovici, Mihaela Martin, Miriam Fried, Gérard Caussé, Frans Helmerson, José Van Dam, Walter Boeykens, the Enesco Quartet, the Melos Quartett, the Quatuor Ysaÿe, and the Ensemble César Franck. His vast and impressive repertoire includes the complete works for solo piano of Maurice Ravel. He is currently an emeritus professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatory and teaches at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel. In 2004 he reorganised the school founded in 1977 by his own teacher as the Eduardo del Pueyo Musical Centre and became its artistic director. He is regularly called as jury member to the Queen Elisabeth Competition, as well as other international competitions.

Abdel Rahman El Bacha

Queen Elisabeth Competition – Piano 1978



Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART (1756-1791) – Piano sonata No. 17 in B-flat major, KV 570
Maurice RAVEL (1875-1937) – Scarbo (from Gaspard de la nuit)
Mily BALAKIREV (1837-1910) – Islamay, Op. 18
Sergey PROKOFIEV (1891-1953) – Piano concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 16

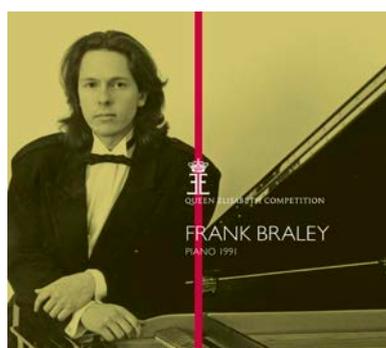
Abdel Rahman El Bacha, piano
National Orchestra of Belgium
Georges Octors, conductor

Total time: 60'20"
Live recordings 1978
Reference: MU-013 – Bar code: 5425019973131

Born in Beirut in 1958, **Abdel Rahman El Bacha** lives in France. At the age of 16 he pursued his piano studies under Pierre Sancan at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris, where he obtained four first prizes (for piano, chamber music, harmony, and counterpoint). Since his talent was discovered at the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 1978, he has performed in the most prestigious concert halls around the world. He has played with a variety of orchestras, including the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Orchestre de Paris, the NHK Symphony Orchestra - Tokyo, and the English Chamber Orchestra. His first disc, devoted to the works of Prokofiev, received the Grand Prize of the Charles Cros Academy. Since then he has recorded many works (including Bach, Ravel, Schubert and Schumann) with Forlane, Fuga Libera and Mirare. His complete Beethoven sonatas and complete works for solo piano by Chopin have been a great success, both in concert and on CD. Abdel Rahman El Bacha is also a composer and is master in residence for the piano at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel.

Frank Braley

Queen Elisabeth Competition – Piano 1991



Franz LISZT (1811-1886) – Sonetto 123 del Petrarca (Years of Pilgrimage, Italy, S. 161)
Sergey RACHMANINOV (1873-1943) – Variations on a theme of Corelli, Op. 42
Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART (1756-1791) – Piano sonata No. 12 in F major, KV 332
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770-1827) – Piano concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58

Frank Braley, piano
National Orchestra of Belgium
Ronald Zollman, conductor

Total time: 71'40"
Live recordings 1991
Reference: MU-014 – Bar code: 5425019973148

Frank Braley studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris under Pascal Devoyon, Christian Ivaldi, and Jacques Rouvier. In 1991 he won the 1st Prize and the Audience Prize at the Queen Elisabeth Competition. Invited to perform regularly in Japan, the United States, Canada, and all over Europe, he appears in recital, in chamber music (with partners such as Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Maria João Pires, Augustin Dumay, Paul Meyer, Gérard Caussé, Éric Le Sage, Emmanuel Pahud, Mischa Maisky, and Yuri Bashmet), and as a soloist with ensembles such as the Orchestre de Paris, the Orchestre National de France, the National Orchestra of Belgium, the Liège Royal Philharmonic, the Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the London Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, and the Seattle Symphony. He has been conducted by Jean-Claude Casadesus, Charles Dutoit, Armin Jordan, Hans Graf, Günther Herbig, Christopher Hogwood, Marek Janowski, Kurt Masur, Yehudi Menuhin, Antonio Pappano, and Walter Weller, among others. He is also passionately interested in unusual projects such as his performances of the complete Beethoven sonatas, performed at the 2004 La Roque d'Anthéron festival and in a number of French cities, in Rome, and Brazil and subsequently in Bilbao, Lisbon, and Tokyo. He has made many recordings for harmonia mundi, Naïve, Virgin, and Virgin Classics. Since 2014 Frank Braley is Musical Director of the Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie.