

MARIA LUISA CANTOS IN MOSCOW

"FÓRUM CLÁSICO" April 19th 2009



A ductile and versatile artist, Catalonian pianist María Luisa Cantos continues to captivate audiences and critics all around the world, not only because of her technical mastery of the instrument but also the enviable intensity of her performances.

The great Catalonian composer, Federico Mompou, rated the pianist's rendition in a concert she offered at the *Palau de la Música Catalana* as "exquisite and amazing", highlighting "the way in which the performer understands the music she plays and projects it to the crowd with a huge and fine display of emotiveness".

Last March 31, María Luisa Cantos added yet another success to her artistic career. It was due to her performance at the Moscow's Great Conservatory Hall as a soloist with the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Vladimir Fedoseyev. They performed an interesting program of today's music comprised by Sviridov's *Time Forward*, Söderling's *Ursa Major*, Rouse's *Phaeton*, Pann's *Slalom* and *Concert for piano* from the Spanish composer Francisco José Martín-Jaime, in absolute premiere. María Luisa Cantos' version was welcomed with huge applause from the crowd that filled the mystic Muscovite concert hall.

María Luisa Cantos demonstrated yet again that besides being a splendid pianist, she is, beyond our borders, a great ambassador of Spanish music. Since she settled herself on Swiss soil in 1972, she came to realize how little the Iberian repertoire was known in the land of Guillermo Tell thus she took it upon herself to fill that void. For the past three decades she has totally and absolutely devoted her body and soul to spread the Spanish musical heritage throughout Switzerland, other European countries, Latin America and the United States.

Portrait of a great performer.

María Luisa Cantos was born in Barcelona on a thirteenth day of January. In the city's Music Conservatory she studied piano and organ between the ages of 8 and 16 and attained the degree of Piano Teacher with an extraordinary award. In 1979 she became the founder of the Spanish Music Performance Courses in the Swiss city of Baden attended by over a thousand students from all across the world. These master classes gathered many renowned artists such as Pepe Romero (guitar), Joaquín Nin-Culmell (composer) o Lucero Tena (castanets).

From this Project was then born the Swiss Spanish Music Foundation, a private institution to which the book "25 years of Spanish Music in Switzerland" by Luis Mazorra Incera (Alpuerto, 2003) was dedicated.

María Luisa Cantos has been awarded with the Lady Ribbon of the order of Isabel the Catholic as an acknowledgement for her cultural labor abroad. The Catalanian pianist is currently considered to be one of the best performers of Spanish music. She has offered numerous recitals and performed with several orchestras and chamber groups in Europe, the United States and Latin America.