

ONLY CELLO

Valérie AIMARD, cello solo

I - CONVERSATIONS with Roger LENOIR, sound recording

« ONLY CELLO ? »

RL - After the creation with a team of musical friends of "CELLO KIDS", a You Tube channel intended for young cellists which is very successful, you inaugurate "ONLY CELLO" a new solo Channel.

What work ! what dynamism !! which company !!! How did the idea for this river recording come about?

VA - I remember exactly when the idea for this Anthology was born. It was the last days of summer 2018. That year I embarked on my first complete Bach Suites. This is a step for all cellists.

When the concerts were over, a little taken aback, I thought to myself, "What am I doing now? ". Pianists have an endless repertoire, but we cellists are not so easy to find another Grail!

I took a piece of paper and set out to make a list of all the solo pieces that I love to play. The first ones that came to my mind: the Strophes by Dutilleux, Per Slava and the Divertimento by Penderecki, the 1st Suite by Britten, the Sonata by Ligeti, the Ricercare by Gabrielli, Sacher Variation by Lutoslawski.

Quickly, I reached 2 hours of music. So I got into the game: "What if I fill out this program what would I choose? ". Except Bach Suites, it was 4 hours of music! It was incredibly motivating. Then came the wild idea of recording an "Anthology of works for solo cello from 1680 to the present day".

RL - You have already recorded several CDs, in particular with Lyrinx, why not continue with this medium?

VA - Can you imagine offering a record company 4 hours of cello alone ?!

Unsaleable !! If you're not in a big label, a good distribution is currently very difficult, a cello CD alone will be forgotten in a few months ... enough reasons to abandon the idea of the CD.

With such a vast and ambitious program, the idea of creating a You Tube channel has become obvious. It's a modern and up-to-date way to have one's own work seen and heard. There is a "work in progress" aspect that I like. A record: you listen to it, put it away on a shelf and forget about it, there is also a time limit. On You Tube, you can add pieces extensively, new people are constantly listening, it's alive and evolving.

Over time, I have developed this flow-through program by choosing works that have been with me for a very long time and which have a story in my history. With a search for balance between the different styles, quite strong links were created between the pieces by playing them in concert. The order of appearance on the channel is skilfully thought out to form a coherent whole.

To be continued...

