

CĂTĂLIN RĂDUCANU

Cătălin Răducanu took up the piano while still a child. A game at first, a serious thing only later on, the piano became part of his life. Aware of his absolute pitch, Cătălin started to study more intensely. In fact, his entire family is musical, and Cătălin received support and inspiration from them, too. At some point he preferred Chick Corea's jazz improvisation, and in turn he used to play freely, creating his own sequences. Classical music came as an emotional complement, and now he believes he improvises better precisely because he studies classical music so much. Particularly JS Bach – whom he sees as the first great improviser – is one of his favourites, he perceives him as very close to jazz. Whether he plays Bach or improvises, he feels the same freedom. Music is, for him, a way of reaching out for the spiritual, a refuge from what he sees around him every day. He intends to take part in as many competitions as possible (this year he took part in the George Enescu Competition), to gain experience and to break himself in. He reads mostly philosophy, Russian literature, mysticism; when he read Adler's *The Neurotic Character*, he thought he may have some of those features, but it was not the case. When he was younger he felt more isolated, but today he has friends with whom he shares music and he feels his social skills are all right. Stemming from the same root is his desire for more chamber music projects: he feels it is a lot more enjoyable, easier and relaxing to make music as part of a group (e.g. Traffic Strings, with whom he gave concerts at the Romanian Athenaeum, Radio Hall, etc.). Equally defining for him are his ambition and his calling. His ambition emerged a few years ago, when Cătălin decided to try and further his performance techniques, and the calling has always been there, it only took different forms at different times. PS: sometimes he also listens to Coldplay. PPS: he adores Bartok, too.

