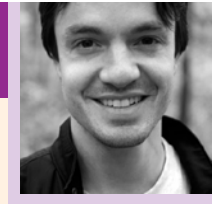


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Dalcroze Connections





CONCERT REVIEW: DALCROZE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

What a joy to be reminded that our beloved Monsieur Jaques was a composer before anything else! Italian Pianist Adalberto Maria Riva treated a lucky, select crowd of New Yorkers on October 9th to a concert of music written by Dalcroze and his contemporaries. The concert was sponsored by the Dalcroze Society of America and hosted by the Kaufman Music Center of New York City, home of the Dalcroze School of New York. Mr. Riva is participating in a larger project, sponsored in part by the Geneva Conservatory and by the Dalcroze Foundation and Association, to record the complete works of Emile Jaques-Dalcroze.

The music, ranging from the 1890s to the 1930s, had a lush, expressive quality, still exploring the compositional possibilities of late tonality and Romanticism. It is perhaps not surprising that a Brahmsian influence, very audible in Dalcroze's compositions, survived in the improvisation of American master teacher Hilda Schuster (a first generation protégé of Dalcroze central to the spread of his teaching in the U.S.), and in turn that of her pupils.

Hans Huber, Emile-Robert Blanchet, George Templeton Strong, Emile Jaques-Dalcroze—names not frequently presented on stage—were give a marvelous interpretation. Mr. Riva's capable hands lead us through all the music thoughtfully and expressively. At times playful, intense, wistful, or grave, his exemplary touch and technique illustrated why these composers belong among the best. Particularly of note was the creativity of his voicing as he found inner voices to bring out, carefully painting the foreground and background of the musical textures.

The larger recording project will be released in 2018 by Toccata Classics (www.toccataclassics.com), to be available in the United States through Naxos America. We all await its completion, and further performances of the music of Dalcroze and his contemporaries!

ADALBERTO RIVA [PHOTO CREDIT: FRANCESCO BRAMBILLA]

