

# BOTOND SZÖCS

## Pianist



*„How wonderful does the young pianist Botond Szöcs play ... He's a second Richter ... I would not even know where to start ... with the care to correctly render each musical phrase, with his sound full, round, with his incredible versatility in interpretation! All these were found in the Sunday evening recital, and were represented brilliantly by the young pianist. But overall, I would notice an extraordinary sensitivity and an equal energy to match it”* said the music critic Petra Gherasim after attended the recital performed at the Romanian Athenaeum in March 2013.

The 23 year old pianist Botond Szöcs got noticed in the music world thanks to his unmistakable energetic temperament boosted by intense artistic feelings and expressed by a persuasive power of interpretation. Student at the Faculty of Music - Transilvania University of Braşov, under the guidance of professor Stela Drăgulin, a great name of Romanian and worldwide piano school, Botond has participated at numerous national and international competitions winning ten first prizes, including First Prize and the Festival's Trophy at the National Contest *Victor Giuleanu* (2012) and *Remember Enescu* Prize, awarded by George Enescu Foundation. These prizes were followed in 2017 by The Jury's Special and Excellence Prizes at the *Art Estival Brasov* Contest – 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, as well as the American - Romanian Academy for Arts and Sciences *Music Award for Excellence -The Best Concert Performer as a Soloist, Member of a Chamber Music Ensemble and Accompanist*.

Botond Szöcs started as a soloist when he was just 17 years old, playing Mozart's *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in F Major, KV 459* with Philharmonic Orchestra of Sibiu. Following that, he gave performances alongside the country accompanied by diverse philharmonic orchestras. His repertoire extended fast including the highlights of the genre, piano concertos belonging to W.A.Mozart, L.van Beethoven, E. Grieg, F. Liszt, R. Schumann, F. Chopin, S. Rachmaninov and W. Lutosławski.

Preoccupied by chamber music, between 2015 and 2016, Botond performed the complete Mozart and Beethoven's sonatas for piano and violin. Deeply impressed by the

artistic performance of the young musician, violinist Peter Rosenberg (first concert master of the Bamberger Symphoniker, Germany and Botond's partner in the Beethoven integral) said: *"young pianist Botond SZŐCS continues the plethora of talent in the class of the famous piano professor, Stela Drăgulin. He has an eruptive and passionate temper, but senses and creates poetic aspects of music with a highly developed and consistent technique always subordinated to the musical content."* Moreover, beginning with 2017, Botond started the series of recitals focused on the repertoire for two pianos and piano quintet.

Notable moments in Botond's pianistic ascension are also the appearances with recital programs both in Romania and abroad, among which we mention tours from Great Britain, Italy, Hungary, Germany, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova to Vietnam and China. However, his artistic performance was considered a success, captivating the audience with an *"electrifying, deeply profound performance."* (Press Release) and being constantly praised by the music critics. Another glimpse of the articles reflecting his art reveals: *"Thanks to his undeniable musical qualities and to an exceptional guidance, the 20 years old pianist has reached works in a remarkable version revealing his qualities, his mastery interpretation....and the great ability to highlight the semantic richness of music. I appreciated the virtuosity in playing (his fingers and bravery techniques, the sound full of tenderness and nobility), evoking the process of events through an impressive accumulation of drama and expressive force."* (Carmen Manea – Concert's Report)

More opinions about Botond Szőcs:

*"An amazing piano concert performed by the Romanian virtuoso Botond Szács at Bristol's prestigious Victoria Rooms. Huge thank you to Professor Pickard of the Bristol University's Department of Music and to Professor Stela Drăgulin of Transilvania University for sharing this wonder with us. Thank you also to our sponsor Marc White Solicitors, project manager Ileana Constantinescu and our volunteers. Above all, we express enormous gratitude to our pianist for introducing us to new interpretations of Enescu and Rachmaninov... Thank you Botond - you made us proud".*

Răzvan Constatinescu, General Honorary Counsel - Bristol, United Kingdom  
*"An exceptional talented pianist, Szőcs Botond from Braşov, repeats with our symphonic orchestra conducted by Alexandru Ganea, Beethoven's Concerto no. 3 for piano and orchestra.[...] The young pianist Szőcs Botond impressed our auditory with his warm, sensitive interpretation of Beethoven's piano concert and excellent collaboration with conductor Alexandru Ganea a true professional. I am now convinced why Botond's teacher, Mrs. Stela Dragulin, who polished talents such as Mihaela Ursuleasa and Horia Mihail, now relies on the still-student pianist of 21 years old."*

Jean Dumitraşcu, Director of Piteşti Philharmonic Orchestra

Botond's interest does not stop at his performing skills, since due to his interest in scientific activities he has participated in several student competitions, where he made himself conspicuous with his works of music analysis. The two published papers in the

2017 Edition of the *Bulletin of Transilvania University* brought him two first prizes and also the recognition as *The Best University Student Work* of the Faculty of Music.

Certainly Botond Szöcs' career continues to climb and develop based on his exceptional technique and accurate intuition of music, managing to stylistically render unique interpretations of musical works from conception to execution.

### **Facebook official page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/botondpiano>

### **Recordings:**

- Beethoven - *Waldstein* Sonata op.53

<https://www.facebook.com/botondpiano/videos/382836408885815/>

- Rachmaninov - Six Musical Moments op.16

<https://www.facebook.com/botondpiano/videos/383265585509564/>

<https://www.facebook.com/botondpiano/videos/384764432026346/>

<https://www.facebook.com/botondpiano/videos/384766478692808/>

<https://www.facebook.com/botondpiano/videos/384770612025728/>

<https://www.facebook.com/botondpiano/videos/384772758692180/>

<https://www.facebook.com/botondpiano/videos/384775485358574/>

### **Paper and on-line articles**

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/Jr81EDIWOLGk8fY8mPJEKQ>

<http://lapasprinbrasov.ro/botond-szocs-pianistul-roman-care-a-dus-muzica-clasica-in-provinciile-chinei/>

<http://romanian.cri.cn/221/2018/09/21/1s192376.htm>

[http://romanian.cri.cn/341/2018/08/13/1s191120\\_2.htm](http://romanian.cri.cn/341/2018/08/13/1s191120_2.htm)

<http://romanian.cri.cn/381/2018/09/21/1s192377.htm>

<https://www.facebook.com/szocs.botondcsaba/videos/1342397385880863/UzpfSTeWMDAwMzMxODQyMTMwNDoxMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6MTQ4MzI1NzYwMDoxNTE0NzkzNTk5OjQzMTE3Njg4NTAzMzc2MTI2MDI/>

<https://www.facebook.com/basil.const/videos/10215406122198645/UzpfSTeWMDAwMzMxODQyMTMwNDoxODA4MjM3OTkyNjMwMTMx/>