

Interview met Da Sol

- What is the most important "function" of music for you? Does it comfort you? Does it enable you to express feelings? Is it a way to obtain compliments/affirmation by others,... or something else?

Like or not, everybody is involved with music. Everywhere, anytime - Restaurant, supermarkets, when you eat, when you shop, when you watch movies, and even TV - you can't help hearing music all the time and everyone somehow manages to live with music. In my case, as I always felt the same since when I was little, I feel like I just have to be more active, in an instinctive way. I'm really glad to be able to enjoy music, make my own music and perform them. With music, I finally can be honest in front of the people, no matter who are watching/hearing me, sometimes also who are judging me. To me it's not about comforting myself or expressing my feelings. The power of music is so amazing that it can make you happy, laugh, cry, but it also could ruin your day. As a pianist, sometimes I realize how dangerous, great and huge the music can be. And I love all these details and functions of music. I can't help myself jumping into the music and love them. If you ask me about function of music, it's the music itself, which always has been surprising me.

- Do you have a particular preference for one of the pieces/composers you are going to perform in Mechelen coming February? If yes, for which one and why?

This solo recital program is really special to me, because all these works are my favorite ones of my favorite works of Robert Schumann and Franz Liszt. I like to play pieces of Schumann especially. I loved those two works of R. Schumann - Arabesque and Kreisleriana - so much that I was afraid to start to learning them. It also took quite long time to get them ready. And I haven't played often Liszt's pieces for concerts. But 2011 is F. Liszt's 200th birth year, so I'm planning to learn and perform many works of F. Liszt. For the concert in Mechelen, I chose three movements of Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage Italie*, which has its own stories. I had to think over and over to make balanced, musical and interesting program. This program has very many stories and many characters - happy, sad, beautiful, ugly, male, female... I'd love to share my own characters, colors and ideas for R. Schumann and F. Liszt with the audience in Belgium.

- What is a dream of yours (not necessarily musical)? What do you want to do/accomplish in your life?

Five years ago when I first came to Germany to study. I always said that I wanted to be a concert pianist. And now somehow I made this small figure of pianist, which I always wanted to be and had to work hard for. Of course, there still are lots of things to do to get better, still I wouldn't be just unhappy. I'm giving many concerts over time and time, and I want to do always my best, which should be better for every "next times." I'm doing already what I want to do, so I wouldn't say I'm still working on my dream - I'm just trying to be better musician.

- It's been a while since you were in Korea. How do you think/feel about your native land? Do you miss it? Why (not)?

When I was 16, I came to Germany, alone. It was quite hard time because of learning the language, trying to feel myself in new country - but luckily, I was quite young enough, and I got used to it very fast. Sometimes, usually when I have concert in Asia, I go back to Korea to see my family and each time when I see my family and friends again, it's real great time. But I also have my own life in Europe, I no longer feel myself as a foreigner. I have to admit that I miss Korea, but also when I'm in Korea, I miss Germany. These both countries are so familiar to me that I feel home, when I'm in either one.