

Moving with Brahms



*“Horizon are in perpetual motion
for those who wander”*

- M. Murgia -

Leonardo Laviola
Emiliano Trasacco
Simone Mao



Moving with Brahms is a musical project envisioned by Leonardo Laviola, in 2023, with the aim of giving J. Brahms's World -renowned Hungarian Dances an exquisite and innovative flair, capable of intertwining tradition and future.

This work of art, adamantly opposed to any modern imperative of volatility and banalization, seeks the goal of exceeding the narrow borders of the typical mainstream product by identifying as an artistic project, proudly old fashioned and extremely contemporary both in its form and its factual making.

The formal novelty consists in a risignification of the original auditory aspect, dismembering the previous order of the tracks, which were rearranged according to a precise narrative standard: It begins with a prologue, which is more of a prelude, followed by the most energetic dances in which the plot thickens sewing a weave of swift and yet lyrical or tragic musical moments that untangle in a majestic ending.

The second change concerns the interpreters: this particular piece of music would typically require two pianists for its execution, since it was conceived and composed as a duet. *Moving with Brahms* offers to the public the presence of an unusual Trio - that is to say that, next to Leonardo Laviola, are the pianists Emiliano Trasacco and Simone Mao - giving the audience a chance to witness an unprecedented three-dimensional version of these dances, celebrated in all their prismatic glory.

Events:

- ❖ Concert at CSEN Center (Milan);
- ❖ Concert at 'Ridotto del Teatro Comunale' (Ferrara);
- ❖ Recital in Memory of Michela Murgia at 'Teatro Marcello' (Rome);
- ❖ Digital recording of Brahm's Hungarian Dances at Alfonsi's Steinway Showroom



About us



Leonardo Laviola

Leonardo Laviola was born on the 22nd of November, 1994, and has been playing the piano since the age of seven. He graduated brilliantly from the Conservatoire of S. Cecilia in Rome, after achieving a "B.A. (Hons) degree" in History and Philosophy with top grades at Università degli Studi Roma Tre. Member of the European Piano Teachers Association (EPTA-Italy), he has performed several concerts both nationwide (Rome, Milan, Venice, Altare, Bologna, Savona, Montecchio, Martina Franca, Viterbo, Tolmezzo, Cagliari, Ferrara, Minerbio) and abroad. Over the years he has regularly been invited to Chetham's Piano School (Manchester, UK) where he attended the master-classes of M^o Masayuki Tayama and where he performed both as a soloist and as piano duo with the internationally renowned Italian pianist Marcella Crudeli and whose advanced piano courses he attended to hone his performing skills. He took part in artistic fundraisings, performing in support of medical research on leukemia and to raise awareness on humanitarian issues. More recently he has played in prestigious Concert Halls and Auditoriums such as Harpa Hall (Iceland), the Music Concert Hall of The Bank of Italy, Rome's Exposition Palace and the monumental Theatrum Marcelli (over the years 2013 -2021). After ranking as finalist in Villa Borghese Piano day's National Piano Competition, he won the first prize in the International Piano Competition "Music in the World" held in Rome in 2019 with a score of 99/100. In 2020, he was awarded the Second Prize at the International Piano Competition "Labia/Callegaro". In 2022 he was awarded the Mention of Honor at the Medici International Music Competition and a Special Recognition by the International Competition "AIMC 2022". In 2023 he took part in the 43rd International Epta Conference in Rome, performing a selection of works by Italian Composers (Scarlatti, Talmelli, Petrassi) garnering praise and recognition. In 2024 he was awarded the Silver Prize in the Virtuoso International Music Awards in London. Furthermore, with his colleagues (Emiliano Trasacco and Simone Mao) he recorded a Live CD on all the Hungarian Dances by J. Brahms for the Label Kleisma Music. He currently holds the chair of Piano teacher for Istituto Corelli and for the Arts Academy MTD A in Rome, Italy.



Emiliano Trasacco

Emiliano Trasacco was born in Rome in 2001. After graduating from Highschool with top grades, he was admitted to the prestigious Conservatoire of Naples "San Pietro a Majella", from which he graduated brilliantly in 2023. In the same period, he performed many piano recitals as a soloist for "La Musica" in Rome. In 2023 he took part in the summer festival "I concerti del Tempietto", performing as a soloist in the monumental Theatrum Marcelli. In 2024 he became a member of the "Moving with Brahms" project, along with pianists Leonardo Laviola and Simone Mao, performing J. Brahms's Hungarian Dances for four hands in Milan (Csen Concert Hall), Ferrara (Principal Theatre) and Rome (Cloister in Campitelli). He then completed this project with the recording of a Live Album, comprising all of the dances by Brahms, distributed by the Kleisma Music Agency. Since 2024 he is a member of the European Piano Teachers Association. He is now taking piano classes under the mentorship of M^o Leonardo Laviola



Simone Mao

Born in Mirano (Venice) in 1999, Simone Mao began his musical studies at the age of 11 under the guidance of Luca De Liberali at first, later on under the wing of Michele Liuzzi; He graduated with top marks from the Conservatoire of Music "Benedetto Marcello" in Venice and he is now being mentored by Igor Cognolato for his Master's Degree. He was requested to officially represent the Institution on multiple occasions. He attended the Hochschule Für Musik "Carl Maria Von Weber" in Dresden for a year, in the class of Karl - Heitz Simon. He honed his skills by attending a wide number of masterclasses with Pietro De Maria, Carlo Palese, Francesco Libetta, Norma Fisher, Ilya Itin, Jorge Luis Prats, Walter Ponce, Zlata Chochieva, Josu de Solaun. He received outstanding praise in plenty of International Piano Competitions, winning the First Prize (with Scholarship) at the 33rd European Music Competition "Città di Moncalieri", the Second Prize at the "Paul Badura Skoda" International Competition held in Vienna and the Third Prize at the Minerbio international Piano Competition. The Richard Wagner Association awarded him, among other pianists, the "Bayreuth Scholarship 2024", thanks to which he was selected as a performer for the nominees concert. As of 2024, he is a member of the European Piano Teachers Association. He has performed in many concerts both nationwide and abroad: Among others, the concerts at the "Sale Apollinee" and The Great Hall of the Fondazione Teatro La Fenice di Venezia, at Palazzo Marino in Milan, at Carynthische Musikakademie in Ossiach, Salon an der Frauenkirche in Dresden. He performed in Miami for the 2019 Edition of the Miami piano festival Academy. He collaborated with the pianists Leonardo Laviola and Emiliano Trasacco, a trio with whom he recorded all of the Hungarian Dances by J. Brahms in a Live Album, available on all streaming apps and channels and distributed by the Kleisma Music Agency. His interests range from performing to teaching, which is why he partnered with the website www.pianosolo.it, on which he often shares his insight on piano technique via articles and videos. He currently holds a teaching post at the Music School Vincenzo Ponzilacqua of Lendinara.

Contact us



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