

MARINA PACOWSKI

Professor of accompaniment and coach for singers at the Maurice Ravel Cote Basque conservatory Marina Pacowski is a concert performer with a broad range of avenues: solo piano, chamber music, jazz and theater...

When Marina Pacowski (1) sits at the piano, one can feel at the same time her great love of life, her profound sensibility, a volcanic energy finding focus, intense vibrations... In order to explain this thirst for new territories, one can unearth a few "keys" hidden in her background at her childhood home in Biarritz. The pretty sounds from her father's clarinet and saxophone, the voice of Ella Fitzgerald, Sydney Bechet "Petite Fleur", have all caressed her ear; the romance of the American musicals loved by her mother created the tender melody of her childhood. In her teenage years, it is the "amazing generosity" of her piano teacher, Ada Labèque, that gave her the wings to fly. At the age of 21, Marina flew to Paris to study with Angeline Pondepeyre, a professor of accompaniment. She often came back to the Basque region. "What was important for me was to refine my musical gestures and my comprehension of music, to ask myself questions on interpretation, to seek...". She obtained then a gold medal in piano from the Bordeaux conservatory, a sum cum laude first prize in writing, analysis and accompaniment from Paris conservatory. Her trajectory is eclectic. In the middle of her classical path, she stopped for 2 years in order to study Jazz piano and singing. "On top of my love for Opera, I like to scat" (2). Marina also plays Bossa Nova and "jazz that swings". 2 years ago she created a show, "Brazilian smoothie", mixing musical performance and readings of Brazilian poems. The pianist also worked at the Nancy Conservatory for 3 years as an accompanist, and then was hired in the Bayonne Conservatory. But 2 years later she heard the call for new musical adventures. In July 2001, she won the Belvédère International Competition in Vienna (Austria) in the coach for singers category. She then went on to win the yearly competition organized by the National Rhine Opera, This led her to become the pianist and coach for the "Young Rhine Voices" during the 2000-2001 season. "I was learning my skill set while being linked to the Strasbourg Opera. A coach for singer is a pianist that practices with singers before they rehearse with a full orchestra". She came back to the Basque region in 2002 after passing the competition to become Professor of Art. Marina is today a tenured professor at the Bayonne conservatory where she teaches accompaniment and how to coach singers. She will play in Berlin in October 2010, she played in San Francisco (3) last June, next year in Copenhagen, and New York in 2 years: Marina performs on many stages including those in Anglet, Capbreton, Biarritz. In her personal pantheon, on the jazz side, come Charlie Parker, Brad Mehldau (she participated in workshops at The Marciac jazz festival); and on the classical side her repertoire includes Schumann, Chopin, Schubert, Mozart, Takemitsu, Peio Çabalette... "Everything I do in life is about borders, I like that. I like to explore all territories: dance, theater..." She created the project "Clara and Robert Schumann, crazy love" performed at the "Théâtre du Versant" last February, in which she played the role of Clara. "My love for theater and romantic music found in their amorous exchange of letters, a place for creating characters as well as a space to display passion". Marina is in the middle of a project on Albert Cohen her favorite writer, that will be created next season. "In brief, what is truth? It is what lies between words and felt in joy" (4). In brief, would the emotion born when listening to music, be this space between notes and felt in a state of joy? B.A

(1) marinapacowski.com

(2) Scat is a form of vocal improvisation for which onomatopoeia are used instead of words.

- (3) in duet with Thierry Barbé, Double bass and professor at National Superior Conservatory of Paris
- (4) Solal (Albert Cohen)