

CONNECTED

PIANO
TRANSCRIPTIONS



KETEVAN SHARUMASHVILI

IF YOU WANT TO FIND
THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE,
THINK IN TERMS OF ENERGY,
FREQUENCY AND VIBRATION

Attributed to Nikola Tesla

CONNECTED

The universe is made up of space filled with fields of vibration, interconnected, unified and in constant communication where distance and time are irrelevant. In my view music is also about energy, frequency and vibration and thereby can connect and unify through communication. In addition, music adds to the above an extra layer: emotion that can be seen as energy in motion.

Emotion is the lifeblood of music, infusing every note and melody with meaning and resonance. It serves as an outlet for expressing joy, sorrow, love, and a myriad of feelings that words alone cannot capture. In times of celebration, music becomes a catalyst for euphoria, unleashing a shared sense of elation among listeners.

Conversely, during moments of grief or heartache, music offers solace and companionship, as if an understanding friend lending a comforting embrace.

In essence, when we are connected through music we are reminded of our shared humanity. It weaves a tapestry of emotions and experiences that echo through the ages, uniting us as a global community. Through music, we find a deeper understanding of ourselves and others, transcending the constraints of time and connecting our souls in a harmonious symphony of life.

For this CD, I chose piano transcriptions partly because I like the transformative process behind them. Before you can listen to these compositions many transformations have occurred. Composers, influenced by their emotions, transformed their ideas into compositions which they wrote down on paper. The transcribers of these compositions have added another layer of ideas and emotions. A performer and the recording of it again transforms the music. Finally in the listener the soundwaves are transformed into an emotional experience.

For me these transformations are linked to the human condition. We ourselves also transform during our lifetime but in essence our emotions stay the same. Music is able to reconnect us to these emotions. Although the pieces are different in style and from different times and cultures to me they are connected to the same human emotions. In art it is often said that the essence of beauty is unity in variety.

The music on this cd is connected through times like a string of pearls from Bach and Rachmaninoff to Gershwin who, in turn, inspired Wild and Volodos. Most pieces are related to the theme of love in its many forms. Love, a force both profound and mysterious, finds its most poignant articulation through melodies and lyrics.

Auf dem Wasser zu singen by Schubert and *Where beauty dwells* by Rachmaninoff are about spiritual connections of our souls with nature, God and the universe. Schubert's *Ständchen* and Gershwin's *Embraceable you* are about romantic love between two people just as Liszt evoked the love between Lohengrin and Elsa as composed by Wagner. In *April in Paris* by Trenet the coming of spring brings love in the air.





1.

Sheep may safely graze (*Schafe können sicher weiden*) is originally a soprano aria of the cantata *Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntre Jagd* written in 1713 for a birthday celebration of Christian, Duke of Saxe-Weissenfels. In the aria the Roman god of shepherds Pales sings about the peaceful life of sheep under a watchful shepherd to the inhabitants of a state with a wise ruler.

2.

Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach, the most famous of Bach's sons, was an influential composer at the time of the transition of the Baroque to the Classical style. This version is as played by György Cziffra on his 1958 recording for EMI France.

3.

Gretchen am Spinnrade is a song written in 1814 by Franz Schubert using the text of Part One, scene 15 of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust*. It is about Gretchen who is thinking of Faust at her spinning wheel and she remembers his kiss while she realizes that they will never be together.

4.

Auf dem Wasser zu singen is a song composed by Franz Schubert in 1823 based on the poem of the same name by Friedrich Leopold zu Stolberg-Stolberg. The text describes a scene on the water from the perspective of the narrator who is in a boat and delves into the narrator's reflection on the passing of time.

5.

Ständchen (*Serenade*) is a song from the posthumously published cycle *Schwanengesang* on words by Ludwig Rellstab. Schubert wrote this song in the last months of his life. It is about a young man declaring his love over a gentle accompaniment.

6.

Elsa's bridal procession to Münster (Elsas Brautzug zum Münster) comes from the fourth scene of act II of the opera *Lohengrin* by Richard Wagner, where Elsa is preparing for her wedding to Lohengrin.

7.

Johann Strauss II composed this waltz in 1869 on the theme "Who loves not wine, women and song, remains a fool his whole life long". Leopold Godowsky was born in Lithuania and became a highly respected pianist and composer. Besides numerous compositions of his own he also wrote many virtuoso transcriptions of works by other composers. He wrote three *Symphonische Metamorphosen* on themes by Johann Strauss II. The third (*Wein, Weib und Gesang*) is more than a transcription but, rather, a complex and technically demanding new composition inspired by Strauss. He elevated the themes by Strauss to reach symphonic proportions.

8.

Sergei Rachmaninoff composed his *Sonata in G minor for cello and piano* in 1901, four months before he got married and around the same time as his *Piano concerto No 2*. The cello sonata is one of the composer's most romantic works. He dedicated the sonata to the Russian cellist Anatoliy Brandukov, who gave the first performance with the composer playing the piano part. The third movement, *Andante Cantabile*, a passionate but also serenely meditative work.

9.

Rachmaninoff composed 12 romantic songs. The seventh is called *Where Beauty dwells (Zdes' Khorosho* also translated as *How fair is this spot or How nice it is here*). Rachmaninoff composed it after his marriage to Natasha Sarina, when they spent the summers at their country home Ivanovka where he worked outdoors amid the spacious and quiet fields. The song is about the bond between man, nature and God. It is also a love song.

10.

George Gershwin was an American composer and pianist who wrote many jazz standards. With lyrics by his brother Ira he composed the song *Embraceable you* in 1928. It was first performed by Ginger Rogers in the Broadway musical *Girl Crazy*.

11.

Another internationally famous pianist and composer was Alexis Weissenberg. He was born in Sofia (Bulgaria) in 1929 from which he escaped with his mother in 1943 to Jerusalem. After having first moved to the USA in 1947, he went to live in Paris in 1957. There he got to know works of the famous French singer-songwriter Charles Trenet who composed almost thousand songs in his lifetime. One of these is *April in Paris* written in 1953 by Trenet and Walter Eiger.

12.

Astor Piazzolla's *Tanti Anni Prima* (also known as *Ave Maria*) is from the film score of the film *Enrico IV* directed by Marco Bellocchio and released in 1984. This adaptation of Luigi Pirandello's play of the same name published in 1921 centers around a man who believes he is the medieval Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV. The film brilliantly explores themes of identity, madness, and reality.



KETEVAN SHARUMASHVILI

Ketevan Sharumashvili is a Georgian pianist. In 2010, she graduated from the Tbilisi State Conservatory, where she received her Bachelor and first Master degree with Nino Mamradze. In 2011 she continued her studies in Hamburg at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater, where she obtained the *Konzertexamen* diploma with Marian Migdal. She also studied with Konstantin Scherbakov at the Züricher Hochschule der Künsten. After moving to The Netherlands she completed her second Master in 2015 at the Conservatorium with Naum Grubert and Jan Wijn.

Ketevan also followed Masterclasses with other pianists including Cyprien Katsaris, Paul Badura-Skoda, Tamás Vásáry and Boris Berman. She won prizes at several international competitions in France, Italy, Greece and The Netherlands.

Since 2017 Ketevan moved permanently in The Netherlands where she is active as a soloist and chamber musician. In 2021 she recorded a CD entitled *Ne m'oubliez pas!* with Antillian classical music for violin (Jeroen Dupont) and piano at Zefir Records.

- 1 00'00 **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685–1750)
Schafe können sicher weiden, BWV 208
Transcription: Egon Petri (1881–1962)
- 2 00'00 **Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach** (1714–1788)
Sonata in B minor, second movement, W.55.3
Transcription: György Cziffra (1921–1994)
- 3 00'00 **Franz Schubert** (1797–1828)
Gretchen am Spinnrade, D.118
Transcription: Franz Liszt (1811–1886), S.558/8
- 4 00'00 **Auf dem Wasser zu singen**, D.774
Transcription: Franz Liszt, S.558/2
- 5 00'00 **Ständchen**, D.957/4
Transcription: Franz Liszt, S.560/7
- 6 00'00 **Richard Wagner** (1813–1883)
Elsas Brautzug zum Münster (from: *Lohengrin*), WWV 75
Transcription: Franz Liszt (1811–1886), S.445/2
- 7 00'00 **Johann Strauss II** (1825–1899)
Wein, Weib und Gesang, Op. 333
Transcription: Leopold Godowsky (1870–1938)

- 8 00'00 **Sergei Rachmaninoff** (1873–1943)
Sonata G minor for cello and piano, third movement:
Andante Cantabile, Op. 19
Transcription: Arcadi Volodos (1972)
- 9 00'00 **Zdes' Khorosho**, Op. 21
Transcription: Earl Wild (1915–2010)
- 10 00'00 **George Gershwin** (1898–1937)
Embraceable you
Transcription: Earl Wild (1915–2010), Étude No. 4
- 11 00'00 **Charles Trenet** (1913–2001) & **Walter Eiger** (1917–1991)
En avril, à Paris
Transcription: Alexis Weissenberg (1929–2012)
- 12 00'00 **Astor Piazzolla** (1921–1992)
Tanti Anni Prima
Transcription: Hetty Sponselee (1963)

Ketevan Sharumashvili
piano

total time: xx'xx

...se Concertzaal Middelburg (NL),
... (8-11) and April 3-4, 2023

...t Jakko van der Heijden
... 340

... van Hartevelt - De Hamernoot
... rms
... Gaskill
... (photographer unknown)

... e Vries

... J.B.Guadagnini violin from 1755.

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Ne m'oubliez pas!
Ketevan Sharumashvili
& Jeroen Dupont

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