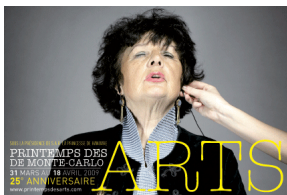


Music otherwise "Spring in Monte Carlo"

What a surprise and pleasure to review the impressive innovative program of this music festival ! Extending for over three weeks in March and April and located along many French Riviera towns such as Beaulieu, Cap d'Ail, Menton, it's real home hub is Monte Carlo. The festival is celebrating 25 years and its music director Marc Monnet is celebrating along obviously pleased. "They have asked me to do something different "he told the Diapason, the leading music magazine of France, "and since 2003 we have done so and scheduled the festival at this time of the year when no other music festival is yet open.



"This year, the program goes from the classical quartets of Beethoven works of Bach, through the somber chamber music and lieds of Schubert, the Romantic Debussy to the modern, Dallapicolla, Albeniz Chausson Kurtag and Monnet himself. Major chamber groups such as the Parisii quartet, the Prazak quartet, Important orchestras such as the Nice Philharmonic and the Monte Carlo Symphony with its dashing new conductor Yakov Kreisberg, are on the roll call. String of soloists ; Christophe Eschenbach accompanying at the piano the baritone Matthias Goerne, the pianists Jean-francois Heisser and Emanuel Strosser, the cellists Marc Coppey and Pieter Wispelwey, the violinists Ilya Gringolts and Tedi Papavrami I have passed a few but will not pass the worlds top violist Tabea Zimmerman whom I will hear tonite.

Spring Festival. Monte Carlo - April 3 2009 Prince Rainier III Auditorium.... The Monte Carlo Symphony Yakov Kreizberg conducting Tabea Zimmerman viola.

Impossible not to feel poor unless you are very rich, in Gold blessed Monaco .The Dollar and Pound crash the subprime mortgage disaster does not seem to have affected Monaco. Even Bernie Madoff swindling has not touched the upper crust or so it seems...

Folks still dining at Alain Ducasse 3 stars exclusive pad at *Hotel de Paris* for 500 \$ a couple (pourboire non compris). Ladies wear high fashion garb and diamonds studded colars, gents are clothed in hand made suits with upper breast pocket silk hand kerchiefed and de rigueur Gucci loafers. Of course most Monegasques are folks like you and me watching their purse and worrying about the end of the month.

Special "Spring in Monte Carlo" by Peter Hermes

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