

PRIMA CLASSIC PRESENTS



Elena Kole & César Altur

*The **Breathe** cycle combines the emotionally diverse works of Robert Schumann's "Three Romances" and "Adagio and Allegro" with Elena Kolesnikova's latest work "Awakening", composed specifically for oboe and piano.*

This tandem seems ideal for capturing the subtle and placid moments of our experiences.

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Breathe

Elena Kole & César Altur

All musicians—pianists, violinists, clarinetists...—seek to imitate the sound of the most beautiful instrument in the world: the human voice. Perhaps the oboe is among the instruments closest to the expressiveness and warmth of our human instrument.

For me, writing music for oboe and piano was like adding a particularly fine brush to so many other variants to create a watercolor. I really enjoyed intertwining the oboe and piano interventions. Wind and string instruments give more continuity to the piano sound. The natural and elegant vibrato of the oboe enriches its expressiveness.

In these brief miniatures, I tried to frame some special moments that take us out of routine reality for a few moments: an unexpected purple reflection of the last ray of the sun; the smiles of a couple in love; or a placid memory that vaguely invades us until it produces a definitive flash.

After all, creating music and listening to it is knocking on the door of our imagination.

Elena Kole

The Music

Elena Kolesnikova **AWAKENING**

The first rays of the sun	3:05
Summer Afternoon in Boston	1:49
Purple sunset	2:56
Baroque beat	2:42

Robert Schumann **Three Romances op. 94**

5. I. Nicht schnell	3:20
6. II. Einfach, innig	3:45
7. III. Nicht schnell	4:32

Adagio and Allegro op. 70

8. Adagio	3:39
9. Allegro	5:01



Elena Kole (Kolesnikova) lives in Barcelona, Spain.

Elena was educated at the Rimsky-Korsakov State Superior Conservatory in Saint Petersburg, Russia, a center where she already began to work as an accompanist pianist.

In 1990 he received the Diploma of Honor from the Ministry of Culture in the 1st National Contest of Accompanying Pianists held in Kazan and participated in other international competitions, accompanying, for example, I. Strunin to Toulouse, France (First Prize), Y. Ivshin to Wroclaw, Poland (Second Prize) or to T. Menchikova in Vienna, Austria (First Prize) and Barcelona, Spain (Special Prize).

She also worked in the Lied masterclasses of R. Hall and J. Jansen in Saint Petersburg, and performed recitals in prominent halls such as the Philharmonic Hall in that city, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam (as part of the Hermitage Series), the Caja Auditorium in Madrid, the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona or the Palau de Congressos de Ibiza.

Her work as a specialist in piano repertoire has also been reflected as a teacher at the Liceu of Barcelona Conservatory and as an official pianist for the finalists of the Francesc Viñas (Barcelona) International Singing Competition in various editions.



César Altur was born in Valencia, Spain, where graduated with honors from the Superior Conservatory of Music Joaquín Rodrigo. He was soon admitted to the Reina Sofía School in Madrid under the tutelage of Hansjörg Schellenberger.

In 2003, he joined the Gustav Mahler Jugend Orchester, in Vienna, as solo oboe, and performed at the Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Usher Hall in Edinburgh, Tokyo's Opera City and Suntory Hall, with directors Ingo Metzmacher and Pierre Boulez. That same year he joined the Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa, under director Juanjo Mena.

In 2004 he joined the Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra, and in 2006, being Sebastian Weigle the musical director, César joined the Symphony Orchestra of the Gran Teatro del Liceu de Barcelona as solo oboe.

César centers his musical activity in Barcelona, while performing with the National Orchestra of Andorra, the Münchner Kammer Orchester, the AIMS Music Festival, and the Xinghai Music Festival (China), among others. His activities involved performances with artists such as Gustavo Dudamel, Plácido Domingo, Joyce Didonato, and Joshua Bell, among many other soloists.

César is the professor of oboe and chamber music at the Higher Conservatory of Music of the Liceu in Barcelona.

Credits

Executive producer: **Edgardo Vertanessian**

Recorded in Barcelona, Spain, in July 2022

Recording, Editing, Mixing, and Mastering: **Edgardo Vertanessian**

Artwork design: **Andrew Vlasov and Tatyana Vlasova**

Photo: **María Pujol**

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