

**RAPHAELLA SMITS IN CONCERT**

**26 01 2014**

**BACH - MERTZ - SOR**



PHOTO BY MIRA JOCHEMS

**RAPHAELLA SMITS PLAYS WORLDWIDE IN HER UNIQUE WAY ON EIGHT-STRING GUITARS AND HISTORICAL INSTRUMENTS. RECOGNIZED AS “AN UNCOMMONLY MUSICAL GUITARIST” (TIM PAGE, NEW YORK TIMES, USA), SHE COMMITS TO THE SOUL OF THE MUSIC FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES NOW.**

**HER SOLO RECITALS AS WELL AS HER PERFORMANCES WITH THE MOST DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES ALWAYS MEET ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCES AND PRESS.**

**BESIDES STAGE-WORK RAPHAELLA SMITS HAS MADE 17 RECORDINGS, MANY OF THEM BEING LISTED AS INDISPENSABLE TO REFINED MUSIC LOVERS.**

**RAPHAELLA SMITS IS INTERNATIONALLY PRAISED AS AN INSPIRING AND PERSUASIVE TEACHER FOR BOTH GUITAR AND CHAMBER MUSIC. IN ADDITION TO HER CHAIR AT THE LEMMENS INSTITUTE IN LEUVEN (BELGIUM), SHE REGULARLY GIVES MASTER-CLASSES IN WEST AND EAST EUROPE, IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA AND IN JAPAN.**

**ORGANIZERS OF INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITIONS ASK RAPHAELLA AS A MEMBER OF THE JURY BECAUSE OF HER ABILITY TO LISTEN AND TO JUDGE SO ACCURATELY. HERE AGAIN SHE SHOWS HER TALENT TO COMBINE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS WITH A GREAT SENSE OF EMPATHY.**

**RAPHAELLA SMITS IS CALLED QUITE RIGHTLY “UNE GRANDE MUSICIENNE” AND “ONE OF THE MOST DELICATE AND MOST CULTIVATED PERFORMERS OF OUR TIME” (JEAN BERNARD, DIAPASON, FR).**

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**“THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH WORDS ADEQUATE TO DESCRIBE THE WONDER OF RAPHAELLA SMITS. THERE ARE A FEW EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE WHO RADIATE A LIGHT OF THEIR OWN. RAPHAELLA IS ONE OF THEM.**

**I HAD HEARD RECORDINGS BY RAPHAELLA, BUT HEARING AND SEEING HER IN LIVE PERSONAL PERFORMANCE WAS TRULY AN OVERWHELMING EXPERIENCE, A HIGHLIGHT OF MY LIFE.” IRMA WASSALL, USA (1908-2012)**

**“QUEDÉ MUY GRATAMENTE IMPRESIONADA POR LA HERMOSA AMPLITUD DE SU SONORIDAD, ESCUELA GUITARRISTICA, Y EL GRAN DOMINIO DE SU IMPECABLE TÉCNICA INSTRUMENTAL, PERO, MUY ESPECIALMENTE: POR SU CÁLIDA COMO EXPRESIVA MUSICALIDAD INTERPRETAVIA Y QUE LOGRA COMUNICAR A SUS OYENTES - ¡¡ LA FELICITO NUEVAMENTE !!” MARIA LUISA ANIDO, AR/ES (1907-1996)**