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## The Albek Duo, Violin/Piano



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## Biography

Ambra and Fiona Albek both started violin and piano studies at the age of seven. Further to their high school education, they continued their studies in music at the Swiss Italian Conservatoire in Lugano/Switzerland and thereafter at the Zürich/Winterthur Musikhochschule.

Ambra, who also plays the viola, was taught by Alberto Lysy and Peter Rybar and graduated with merit under the guidance of Igor Karsko in Lugano, followed by performance studies in Rudolf Koelman's violin class and Wendy Champney's viola class at the Musikhochschule in Zürich/Winterthur. She graduated in 2004 obtaining the Concert Diploma with top marks and distinction. Following her main interest in chamber music she has attended other master courses with Nora Chastain, Friedemann Rieger and the Carmina quartet in Zurich.

Fiona was taught by Nora Doallo in Lugano graduating with merit; she continued her piano performance studies in Friedemann Rieger's chamber music classes and the Lieder performance class in Zürich/Winterthur. She graduated in 2005 with highest marks and distinction as a Piano Chamber Musician and as accompanist of lyric singers.

Their musical education was enhanced by attending Professor Pier Narciso Masi's chamber music master class at the International Piano Academy in Imola/Italy which they completed successfully, obtaining the Master degree with highest marks. In addition, Ambra has been an active participant at master-classes held by Peter Rybar, Emanuel Hurwitz in London, Gérard Poulet, Ingolf Turban, Arnulf von Arnim, and Robert Cohen, while Fiona has been an active participant at master-classes with Sergio Fiorentino, Paul Badura-Skoda, Arnulf von Arnim, Robert Cohen, and Sandro D'Onofrio.

### Present Career

The Albek Duo regularly performs at festivals and cultural events in Switzerland, Italy, Holland, Austria, France and Germany. They have recently played recitals in North and South America and Australia and appeared with orchestras in Switzerland, Ireland and the United States. Prominent composers have written music specifically for them. Italian composer Alessandro Lucchetti's Fantasy on Themes from Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca" received its world premiere recording on their Eroica South of the Alps CD. Patrick Jonathan recently completed Postcards from K.L., a chamber work for violin, piano and percussion dedicated to the Albek Duo. The well-known American composer William P. Perry wrote his Gemini Concerto: An Entertainment for Violin, Piano and Orchestra for Ambra and Fiona Albek, who presented the world premiere in the United States with the Pioneer Valley Symphony, conducted by Paul Phillips. It has been recorded for Naxos Records by the Albek Duo and the RTÉ National Symphony of Ireland, Paul Phillips conducting.

Ambra and Fiona frequently perform with actors, most recently in presentations of the writings of Hermann Hesse.

## Critical Acclaim

The enchanting and delightful performance by the Albek twins in Assisi was full of grace, bravura and originality in a demanding program. These sisters from Switzerland from the very beginning have captured the public's attention with their spontaneous freshness and interesting program choices.

-Corriere d'Umbria

Two young, very out-of-the-ordinary women who are beautiful and passionate musicians.

-Storia (TV)

What is exceptional with them is that they are twins and have that special connection that twins do. They are completely "in sync" with each other. They are also young as well as talented so they appeal to all of the audiences senses.

-The Nassau Guardian

The captivating Albek sisters enjoyed great success in one of the world's most beautiful theatres, playing with youthful liveliness and exuberance. Their interpretations were never superficial or exaggerated but were meticulous, expressive and appealing.

-Giornale di Vicenza

# Programs

## Program 1

William Perry  
1930-

### **Gemini Concerto**

for Violin, Piano and Orchestra

Introduction  
Ireland  
Berlin (viola and piano)  
Moscow  
Vienna  
New York

An Entertainment recorded with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland for the Naxos label which will be released 2011.

Felix Mendelssohn-  
Bartholdy  
1809-1847

### **Concerto in D minor**

violin, piano and orchestra

## Program "South of the Alps"

Manuel de Falla  
1876-1946

### **Suite populaire espagnole for violin and piano**

1. El pano moruno
2. Seguidilla Murciana (composición de A.Lucchetti - 2009)2 Nana (berceuse)
3. Nana
4. Cancion (chanson)
5. Polo
6. Asturiana (Asturienne)
7. Jota

Joaquin Turina  
1882-1949

### **Sonata No. 1 in D, Opus 51**

Lento-Allegro molto

Aria  
Rondó

Isaac Albeniz  
1860-1909

### **From Hojas de Album, Opus 165 «España»**

Francis Poulenc  
1899-1963

### **Sonata for violin and piano**

Allegro con Fuoco  
Intermezzo  
Presto tragico

Joaquin Turina  
1882-1949

### **From «El Poema de una Saluqueña», Opus 28**

**Program "Opera for two" - arr. A.Lucchetti**

Gioacchino Rossini 1792-1868	<b>Il barbiere di Siviglia</b>
Giuseppe Verdi 1813-1901	<b>Il Trovatore</b>
Giacomo Puccini 1858-1924	<b>Tosca</b>
Giacomo Puccini 1858-1924	<b>La rondine</b>
Pietro Mascagni 1863-1945	<b>Cavalleria rusticana</b>
Ruggero Leoncavallo 1857-1919	<b>Pagliacci</b>
Georges Bizet 1838-1875	<b>Carmen</b>

**Program 2**

Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827	<b>Sonata No. 4 in A minor - Op. 23</b> Presto Andante scherzoso, più allegretto Allegro molto
Alfred Schnittke 1934-1998	<b>Sonate No. 1 for violin and piano</b> Andante Allegretto Largo Allegretto scherzando Largo
Bedrich Smetana 1824-1884	<b>"Aus meiner Heimat" for violin and piano</b> Moderato Andantino Allegro Vivo

## Program 4

Johannes Brahms 1833-1897	<b>Sonata No. 2 in A major - Opus 100</b> Allegro amabile Andante tranquillo Allegretto grazioso (quasi Andante)
Sergéj Prokófjev 1891-1953	<b>Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80 for violin and piano</b> Andante assai Allegro brusco Andante Allegrissimo
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791	<b>Sonata KV 378 in B flat major</b> Allegro moderato Andantino sostenuto e cantabile Rondeau (Allegro)
Manuel de Falla 1876-1946	<b>Suite populaire espagnole for violin and piano</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. El pano moruno</li><li>2. Seguidilla Murciana (composición de A.Lucchetti - 2009)2 Nana (berceuse)</li><li>3. Nana</li><li>4. Cancion (chanson)</li><li>5. Polo</li><li>6. Asturiana (Asturienne)</li><li>7. Jota</li></ol>
Robert Schumann 1810-1856	<b>Märchenbilder - Op. 113</b> 4 pieces for piano and viola "Nicht schnell" "Lebhaft" "Rasch" "Langsam mit melancholischem Ausdruck"
Francis Poulenc 1899-1963	<b>Sonata for violin and piano</b> Allegro con Fuoco Intermezzo Presto tragico
Bedrich Smetana 1824-1884	<b>"Aus meiner Heimat" for violin and piano</b> Moderato Andantino Allegro Vivo

## Program 5

- Franz Schubert  
1797-1828
- Sonata (Duo), in A major D574 for violin and piano**  
Allegro moderato  
Scherzo e trio: presto  
Andantino  
Allegro vivace
- Alfred Schnittke  
1934-1998
- Sonate No. 1 for violin and piano**  
Andante  
Allegretto  
Largo  
Allegretto scherzando  
Largo
- Robert Schumann  
1810-1856
- Märchenbilder - Op. 113**  
4 pieces for piano and viola  
"Nicht schnell"  
"Lebhaft"  
"Rasch"  
"Langsam mit melancholischem Ausdruck"
- Manuel de Falla  
1876-1946
- Suite populaire espagnole for violin and piano**  
1. El pano moruno  
2. Seguidilla Murciana (composición de A.Lucchetti - 2009)  
2 Nana (berceuse)  
3. Nana  
4. Cancion (chanson)  
5. Polo  
6. Asturiana (Asturienne)  
7. Jota
- Bedrich Smetana  
1824-1884
- "Aus meiner Heimat" for violin and piano**  
Moderato  
Andantino  
Allegro Vivo

## Program 6

- Bedrich Smetana  
1824-1884      **"Aus meiner Heimat" for violin and piano**  
Moderato  
Andantino  
Allegro Vivo
- Sergéj Prokófjev  
1891-1953      **Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80 for violin and piano**  
Andante assai  
Allegro brusco  
Andante  
Allegrissimo
- Henri Vieuxtemps  
1820-1881      **Elegie, in F minor, Op. 30 for viola and piano**  
Andante con moto
- Franz Schubert  
1797-1828      **Sonata (Duo), in A major D574 for violin and piano**  
Allegro moderato  
Scherzo e trio: presto  
Andantino  
Allegro vivace
- Manuel de Falla  
1876-1946      **Suite populaire espagnole for violin and piano**  
1. El pano moruno  
2. Seguidilla Murciana (composición de A.Lucchetti - 2009)2 Nana  
(berceuse)  
3. Nana  
4. Cancion (chanson)  
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