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## Duo Albek, Piano/Violin



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## Biography

Twin sisters **Ambra** and **Fiona** have been performing successfully since 2002 mainly as a **duo** and also in other formations such as piano trio, piano and string quartets, as soloists with orchestra; in addition, they have accompanied singers at recitals and performed in special music and poetry programs.

Their concert activities include various festivals and cultural events in Switzerland, Italy (at the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza), Holland, Austria (at the Mozarteum in Salzburg), Germany (Berlin), USA (New York), Bahamas (Music Society), Suriname (fund raising concert in Paramaribo for the local music school), Australia, and USA. They have also been awarded prizes at international chamber music competitions. Various TV transmissions have been made in Switzerland and abroad about their activities.

They 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** was taught by Alberto Lysy, received an excellent artistic education by Prof. 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 been attending 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 continues her performance studies in Friedemann Rieger's piano 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 Prof. Pier Narciso Masi's chamber music master class at the International Piano Academy in Imola/Italy which they recently 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, Robert Cohen, while **Fiona** has been an active participant at master-classes with Sergio Fiorentino, Paul Badura Skoda, Arnulf von Arnim, Robert Cohen, Sandro D'Onofrio a.o.

Prominent composers have written music specifically for the Albek Duo. 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 Perry wrote his Gemini Concerto: An Entertainment for Violin, Piano and Orchestra for Ambra and Fiona Albek, who presented the world premiere with the Pioneer Valley Symphony, conducted by Paul Phillips. It is being recorded for Naxos Records by the Albek Duo and the National Symphony of Ireland.

# Programs

## Programma 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

## Programma "South of the Alps"

Manuel de Falla  
1876-1946

Suite populaire espagnole per violino e pianoforte

1. El pano moruno
2. Seguidilla murciana
3. Nana (berceuse)
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 per violino e pianoforte  
Allegro con Fuoco  
Intermezzo  
Presto tragico

Joaquin Turina  
1882-1949

From «El Poema de una Saluqueña», Opus 28

**Programma "Opera per due" - arr. A.Lucchetti**

Gioacchino Rossini  
1792-1868

Il barbiere di Siviglia

Giuseppe Verdi  
1813-1901

Il Trovatore

Giacomo Puccini  
1858-1924

Tosca

Giacomo Puccini  
1858-1924

La rondine

Pietro Mascagni  
1863-1945

Cavalleria rusticana

Ruggero Leoncavallo 1857-1919

Pagliacci

Georges Bizet

1838-1875

Carmen

## **Programma 2**

Ludwig van Beethoven

1770-1827

Sonata No. 4 - la minore - Op. 23

Presto

Andante scherzoso, più allegretto

Allegro molto

Alfred Schnittke

1934-1998

Sonata No. 1 per violino e pianoforte

Andante

Allegretto

Largo

Allegretto scherzando

Largo

Bedrich Smetana

1824-1884

"Aus meiner Heimat" per violino e pianoforte

Moderato

Andantino

Allegro Vivo

## **Programma 3**

Johannes Brahms

1833-1897

Sonata No. 2 - la maggiore - Opus 100

Allegro amabile

Andante tranquillo

Allegretto grazioso (quasi Andante)

Sergéj Prokófjev  
1891-1953

Sonata No. 1 - fa minore, Opus 80 per violino e pianoforte  
Andante assai  
Allegro brusco  
Andante  
Allegrissimo

#### **Programma 4**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756-1791

Sonata KV 378 - si b maggiore  
Allegro moderato  
Andantino sostenuto e cantabile  
Rondeau (Allegro)

Manuel de Falla  
1876-1946

Suite populaire espagnole per violino e pianoforte

1. El pano moruno
2. Seguidilla murciana
3. Nana (berceuse)
4. Cancion (chanson)
5. Polo
6. Asturiana (Asturienne)
7. Jota

Robert Schumann  
1810-1856

Märchenbilder - Op. 113  
4 pezzi per pianoforte e viola  
"Nicht schnell"  
"Lebhaft"  
"Rasch"  
"Langsam mit melancholischem Ausdruck"

Francis Poulenc  
1899-1963

Sonata per violino e pianoforte  
Allegro con Fuoco  
Intermezzo

Presto tragico

Bedrich Smetana

1824-1884

"Aus meiner Heimat" per violino e pianoforte

Moderato

Andantino

Allegro Vivo

## **Programma 5**

Franz Schubert

1797-1828

Sonata (Duo), la maggiore - D574 per violino e pianoforte

Allegro moderato

Scherzo e trio: presto

Andantino

Allegro vivace

Alfred Schnittke

1934-1998

Sonata No. 1 per violino e pianoforte

Andante

Allegretto

Largo

Allegretto scherzando

Largo

Robert Schumann

1810-1856

Märchenbilder - Op. 113

4 pezzi per pianoforte e viola

"Nicht schnell"

"Lebhaft"

"Rasch"

"Langsam mit melancholischem Ausdruck"

Manuel de Falla

1876-1946

Suite populaire espagnole per violino e pianoforte

1. El pano moruno
2. Seguidilla murciana
3. Nana (berceuse)
4. Cancion (chanson)
5. Polo
6. Asturiana (Asturienne)
7. Jota

Bedrich Smetana  
1824-1884

"Aus meiner Heimat" per violino e pianoforte  
Moderato  
Andantino  
Allegro Vivo

### **Programma 6**

Bedrich Smetana  
1824-1884

"Aus meiner Heimat" per violino e pianoforte  
Moderato  
Andantino  
Allegro Vivo

Sergéj Prokófjev  
1891-1953

Sonata No. 1 - fa minore, Opus 80 per violino e pianoforte  
Andante assai  
Allegro brusco  
Andante  
Allegroissimo

Henri Vieuxtemps  
1820-1881

Elegie - fa minore - Opus 30 - per viola e pianoforte  
Andante con moto

Franz Schubert  
1797-1828

Sonata (Duo), la maggiore - D574 per violino e pianoforte  
Allegro moderato  
Scherzo e trio: presto  
Andantino

Allegro vivace

Manuel de Falla  
1876-1946

Suite populaire espagnole per violino e pianoforte

1. El pano moruno
2. Seguidilla murciana
3. Nana (berceuse)
4. Cancion (chanson)
5. Polo
6. Asturiana (Asturienne)
7. Jota