

Orazio Sciortino improvises a piano night at the castle

By Andrea Stolz

NORDSTADT. It goes on well even without...

Without the right pedal of the grand piano and without score. All that happens during the concert of the Italian twenty-four-years-old Orazio Sciortino. Even though everything seemed to go badly, it turned up to be an extraordinary quality night of classical music, set in the Garden Hall of the castle. The Sicilian pianist, performed a concert within the series “Musical Treasures at the castle of Wolfsburg”.

The Italian Cultural Institute, led by Marlis Ottimofiore, had scheduled for Wednesday piano recital. Approximately 70 inhabitants of Wolfsburg were waiting eagerly for one of the young stars in the pianists scenery and his interpretation of some compositions by Franz Liszt. Yet, the hostile destiny was hiding not in a small detail but behind the right pedal of the piano. It was stuck.

According to the tuner it would take at least two hours to repair the damage.

The organisers were undecided whether to confirm or to postpone the concert, since it would not be possible to perform Liszt's compositions in those bad conditions. Nonetheless, Orazio did not want to deceive his audience. So, without hesitation, he decided to change program, performing Haydn's, Beethoven's and Mozart's pieces, without score, as the twenty-four-years-old pianist could not foresee such an awkward situation. What followed was a breathtaking performance made of notes in Allegro and a delightful suspension in Adagio. In short, a high level performance.

The young pianist started his concert with a Sonata by Joseph Haydn, expressing from the very beginning a great interpretive tone, a succession of contrasting themes plunged the listeners in a deep emotional suspense. Orazio Sciortino proved himself both brilliant and sensitive, rendering the alternation of slow and faster tempi virtuously and expressively. From Mozart to Beethoven, the positive impressions among the listeners grew piece after piece.

An intense musical night, thanks to a great pianist who is able to express his best even “without”