

Private concert at Rachmaninoff's Villa Senar

Concert Privé for the Eichler family and friends

Report by Esther Braune, lawyer in the legal department of a cantonal bank and herself a passionate pianist, Rachmaninoff expert and Knowledge/Time/Passion donor of the Serge Rachmaninoff Foundation

"Rachmaninoff speaks MUSIC!"

I stand at the Senar gate and usher the guests in. It's a private event with live improvisation by Johanna Summer. Champagne, white wine and wonderful canapés are ready. The host and guests are beaming, expectant and overjoyed. It doesn't seem possible to improve on this scene. But when Johanna steps light-footedly in front of the guests, warmly, spontaneously and begins to improvise on Sergei Rachmaninoff's grand piano, everything around her becomes unimportant. The guests listen to the sounds on a theme by Rachmaninoff - sometimes jazzy, sometimes classical, sometimes loud, sometimes romantically gentle, pianissimo - with their eyes closed, completely absorbed or with a watery gaze. When I asked Johanna after the concert how and why she is able to improvise in this incredible way, she said: "It's my language with the voice of the piano. It's like when you tell a story. It comes naturally." It's impressively simple: Johanna speaks music. How true!

On www.rachmaninoff.ch you will find coverage, an archive of the 2024 events, the link to social media as well as news and events for 2024.