

## **Matinée mit Rachmaninoff Awardee Estel Vivo Casanovas, Saxofon**

Samstag, 15.8.2026, 12.15 Uhr und Sonntag, 16.8.2026, 11.15 Uhr

### **Steven Banks (1993)**

Salleras Variation

### **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

From Violin Sonata no. 1 in G minor BWV 1001

IV. Presto

### **Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)**

From Morceaux de Fantaisie Op. 3

I. Elegie

### **Kreisler/Rachmaninoff**

Liebesleid

Liebesfreud

### **Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)**

Praeludium and Allegro in the Style of Pugnani

I. Praeludium

II. Allegro

### **David Salleras (1980)**

Mi bailaora

## Estel Vivo Casanovas performing at Rachmaninoff's

In November 2025 in New York City, Estel Vivó Casanovas emerged as the winner of the Young Concert Artists, Susan Wadsworth International Auditions. In this context, the Serge Rachmaninoff Foundation presented her with the Rachmaninoff Award. Estel Vivó Casanovas is an exceptional talent who combines performance, breathtaking technique, infinite melodic artistry, and joy of playing. She studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, is originally from Spain, and enchants Rachmaninoff's rooms in a particularly unusual way, illuminating Villa Senar anew with the color palette of the saxophone.

### Additional Questions, a selection, or own thoughts:

**You are a saxophonist and the winner of the Rachmaninoff Award 2026 – That's rather special – How did you feel, when you got the announcements during the YCA Finals ins New York 2025?**

I felt incredibly grateful, like a dream had come true, and it didn't feel possible that something so great was happening. It was a wonderful week getting to know so many people dedicated and passionate about the arts. It's definitely a week I remember very fondly and with joy. I am very grateful to have the honor of being part of such an admirable organization.

**Did you already play the famous Saxophone Solos in Sergei Rachmaninoff's orchestral works? Which is your favourite passaga?**

Yes, I've played the solos in Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*, Op. 45, and it is my favorite. I love how the saxophone sound blends into the orchestra—it feels like the melody grows and expands, melts like butter, and is then taken over by the full orchestral tutti.

**Which music moves you most?**

Violin and piano concertos, orchestral works by Haydn, Dvořák, and Rachmaninoff, Chopin etudes, pop artists from my region in Spain like Rosalía and Oques Grasses, and classic operas by Verdi and Puccini.

**When and how did you first encounter with Sergei Rachmaninoff's music?**

It's hard to remember the first time I encountered Rachmaninoff's music, as it feels like it has always been part of my musical journey. In a way, I feel like I have always known his music. He is such an important composer in music history, and I have always admired his complex and deeply expressive works. Many of my teachers and professors have helped me grow closer to his music, guiding me in understanding its richness and complexity.

**What are you dreaming of?**

I am living my dream. I feel very grateful to be part of YCA, to receive honors like the Rachmaninoff Award, and to perform in historic places like Villa Senar. Traveling, living abroad, and being able to share music and learn from others has always been a big dream of mine, and it's incredible to realize that I am now living that life.

**Would you like to share something else with the audience?**

Storytelling and movement are the aspects of music I resonate with most deeply, and together in this program they shape a musical journey full of excitement, drama, joy, and aliveness. I hope this recital invites the audience to follow me through moments of fire, tenderness, and discovery, and to share in the joy of experiencing music as multidimensional.