

Cooper, Piano Excellence at the Philharmonic

A sensational concert by the French pianist, especially notable in works by Mendelssohn and Chopin

The Philharmonic Society of Oviedo presented yesterday its ninth concert of the season featuring the young French pianist **Diana Cooper**, who performed a varied programme that won over the audience of the century-old institution.

Over the course of more than an hour and a half — making her Philharmonic debut after having appeared several seasons ago in a series designed to showcase outstanding pianistic talents — Cooper, supported by the Municipal Foundation for Culture of Oviedo as well as the EDP Foundation and Caja Rural de Asturias, opened her recital with three sonatas by **Domenico Scarlatti** (K.9 in D minor, K.96 in D major, and K.141 in D minor). In these works she shaped the phrasing beautifully and demonstrated exceptionally clean rhythmic control.

However, it was in **Felix Mendelssohn's Serious Variations in D minor, Op. 54**, that the French artist reached an even higher level, mastering texture and dynamics while achieving moments of striking expressiveness.

The first half concluded with **Enrique Granados's Allegro de concierto, Op. 46**, an evocative work that became especially compelling in Diana Cooper's hands.

After a short intermission, the French pianist returned to the stage for a second half devoted entirely to **Frédéric Chopin**, a composer with whom she excels.

The **Three Mazurkas, Op. 59**, provided a demonstration of serenity and refined taste, while the **Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60**, displayed exceptional lyricism that ultimately captivated the audience.

From that point onward, the **Four Scherzos** further confirmed the pianist's qualities, particularly her ability to sustain musical tension throughout the cycle.

Nevertheless, it was the **Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat major, Op. 61**, that created a uniquely intimate atmosphere, where technique was entirely placed at the service of musical expression, resulting in an extraordinary performance.