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## Ghent wings with Michael Noble transport Ghent feestengangers

25/07/2015 for 16:09 by An Rosiers

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On Friday, the young American pianist Michael Noble gave an impressive concert. The room was quite full and Daan Vandewalle gave an introduction in which he spoke of the loyal fans who have attended almost every concert of the piano festival. “We may have to invent a prize for the most faithful visitor!”

Mr. Noble began with the beautiful and short Gretchen am Spinnrade (Franz Schubert / Liszt). In only a few minutes the room was sucked into the poetic universe of Noble’s sound. The “Sieben Fantasien ‘by Johannes Brahms was equally convincing as the room resonated with his full, warm sound. The great tempo changes between the seven pieces made a compelling whole.

Michael Noble has lived in Ghent for one year, supported by the Belgian American Educational Foundation. “I am very happy that I get to work on contemporary music with political connotations with Daan Vandewalle,” he told us after the concert. It is therefore no coincidence that his recital also featured Frederic Rzewski. This contemporary American composer uses music to spread his political views. Earlier this year the Bijloke Music Center programmed his massive work, “The People United Will Never Be Defeated!”. Noble chose “Down by the Riverside,” Rzewski’s version of the famous Negro spiritual. The old song resurfaced during the Vietnam War as a protest song. The hopeful melody was pleasant to hear in this version. Michael Noble, is also personally convinced that music can have an impact on society. “Of course it is not easy, but possible through music.”

In the final piece, Sonata no. 4 in C minor by Sergei Prokofiev, Noble really showed his versatility. In the ominous ‘andante assai’, which could have been slightly slower, the listener noticed how effortlessly he could switch between different timbres and thus the various facets of the piece were clearly showcased. A promising pianist to remember.