



from
Young Concert Artists, Inc.

CAROLINA ULLRICH, Soprano

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An Evening of Anguish, Control and Radiance

By Vivien Schweitzer

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Since 1961, the Young Concert Artists series has offered a platform for promising musicians, presenting them in debut concerts in New York and elsewhere. Under the leadership of Susan Wadsworth, its founder, the organization has promoted prominent ensembles and soloists early in their careers, among them Dawn Upshaw, Richard Goode, Murray Perahia and the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

On Tuesday evening at Merkin Concert Hall, it was the turn of the excellent Chilean soprano Carolina Ullrich, a winner of the 2008-9 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Ms. Ullrich, 27, seemed comfortable with the recital format, increasingly confident and poised as the evening progressed. She wielded her appealing, silvery voice to fine effect in songs by Schubert, including “Die Forelle” (“The Trout”) and “Im Frühling” (“In Spring”), in which she elegantly segued between wistful and turbulent moods.

Ms. Ullrich had a superlative collaborator in the pianist Marcelo Amaral, whose colorful, detailed and sensitive playing proved an apt match for her expressive singing. They opened the program with Britten’s arrangement of Purcell’s ornately embellished “Blessed Virgin’s Expostulation,” in which Ms. Ullrich potently conveyed Mary’s anguish.



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The first half of the program also included four songs by Richard Strauss, with a passionate rendition of “Ständchen” (“Serenade”) and a charming interpretation of “Muttertändelei.” Throughout the program Ms.

Ullrich’s singing was notable for its attention to text, control and nuanced phrasing.

After intermission came characterful performances of nine selections from Hugo Wolf’s Italian Songbook. Ms. Ullrich sang with comic flair in “Mein Liebster ist so klein” (“My lover is so little”) and “Ich hab’ in Penna einen Liebsten Wohnen” (“I have a lover in Penna”).

She sounded radiant in “À Chloris,” one of four songs on the program by Reynaldo Hahn. The concert concluded with sensual renditions of three songs by Turina, which offered Ms. Ullrich a chance to demonstrate her strong top notes. As an encore, she offered “Melodia Sentimental” by Villa-Lobos.