

THE PLAIN DEALER



[...]

No less triumphant Thursday was pianist Simon Trpceski's Severance Hall debut. Playing Rachmaninoff's widely beloved Piano Concerto No. 2, the artist fully lived up to the high expectations set by his Cleveland Orchestra debut at Blossom Music Center in 2009.

As at Blossom, the pianist at Severance proved an artist of unique but highly alluring character. His performance stripped away much of the the well-known work's typical gloss and thickness and instead cast it in a refreshingly bright, clear light.

Yet it didn't lack for feeling. Trpceski's account of the Adagio with clarinetist Daniel McKelway was spellbinding in the utmost, and where the composer waxes rhapsodic, the pianist poured forth impassioned streams. Even his encore was distinctive. Instead of a virtuoso showpiece, Trpceski played Chopin's sweet, simple A-Minor Waltz, Op. Posth.

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