



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: de Trois Cités Records, Paris & New York

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Re: ***The Barbotte Asai Duo***, pioneers of a groundbreaking genre that integrates Classical and Jazz piano, announces their first tour in Paris, New York, Tokyo and Kobe in 2014/2015.

"A new style of piano duo by a classical pianist in Paris and a jazz pianist in New York"

Barbotte Asai Duo
ba2.takeshiasai.com

A new style of piano duo by a classical pianist in Paris and a jazz pianist in New York

Tour 2014 - 2015

Paris
Le Dimanche 6 juillet 2014 à 17h
Studio Le Regard du Cygne
210 rue de Belleville 75020 Paris

New York
Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Klavierhaus
211 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019

Tokyo
2015年10月23日(金)午後7:00
Musicasa
〒151-0066 東京都渋谷区西原3-33-1

Kobe
2015年10月25日(日)午後3:00
Ihara Gakki
〒658-0047 神戸市東灘区御影2丁目5-10

Masaé Gimbayashi-Barbotte
Paris

Takeshi Asai
New York

DE TROIS CITÉS RECORDS

April 18, 2014 New York -- ***De Trois Cités Records*** introduces their newly born 2-piano ensemble, The ***Barbotte Asai Duo***, as they launch their first tour in Paris, New York, Tokyo and Kobe in 2014/2015. The creative duo connects the talents of Parisian Classical Pianist Masaé Gimbayashi-Barbotte and New York Jazz Pianist Takeshi Asai to introduce an innovative new genre of music.

The secret to the ***Barbotte Asai Duo***'s unique genre lays in the originality of their musical partnership. At each concert, Masaé Gimbayashi-Barbotte, a Classical Pianist and Takeshi Asai, a Jazz Pianist, improvise in tandem, creating a collage of harmonious moments impossible to duplicate. Their joint improvisations unfold spontaneously before the eyes of the audience creating a work of art that can only exist in real time.

As Masaé and Takeshi take the stage behind facing grand pianos anticipation runs high. Neither the performers nor the audience can predict what music the night will bring. From the first stroke of the key, the ***Barbotte Asai Duo*** leads the audience on a musical journey. Each piano sings to the other, a dialogue of interwoven melodies. Listeners may hear elements of blues, all ages of classical music and even some French and Japanese folk songs, as well as elements from each artist's musical vocabulary, as they are juxtaposed one against the other. Both Masaé and Takeshi are guided by immense talent and intuition. Yet it is ultimately the way the duo collaborates, the way they inspire each other's music that elevates these performances from original to magical.

The two-piano ensemble is not a novelty and dates back to the time of Mozart. Yet the ***Barbotte Asai Duo*** is historically unprecedented. Masaé Gimbayashi-Barbotte, a classical pianist and Takeshi Asai, a jazz pianist are far from each other on the musical spectrum. How, then, is it possible for them to create music together? When a puzzled concert manager posed this question of the Duo, Takeshi replied, "Improvise!" And that is what Masaé and Takeshi actually do. No need for rehearsals or talks before they perform for the audience, says Takeshi, "all they need are good ears to recognize the pitches their counterpart has just played and in turn, to respond to what they hear". This is not nearly as simple as they make it sound. Composing instantaneously in this fashion requires unlimited virtuosity on piano, strong musicality and a touch of serendipity all their own.

Serendipity was certainly on their side when Masaé and Takeshi met by mere chance of the wind in Paris last summer when Takeshi was traveling across France on his own jazz tour. Although the two pianists reside in differing countries, Masaé in Paris and Takeshi in New York, they are united by their Japanese origin. Takeshi clarifies,

however, their successes were not, “*made in Japan*”. After graduating from one of the finest colleges in Japan with a degree in French Literature, Masaé found a miraculous opportunity to go to Paris to pursue her dream of becoming a pianist. It was there where her music talents were nurtured by the world-class faculty of l'Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris. For Takeshi, it was Boston's Berklee College of Music where his talent was discovered. As Takeshi found his way to New York, his musicality has blossomed among the first-rate jazz musicians.

With their struggling young days behind them, the two pianists have individually earned wonderful reputations as a concert pianist and a jazz pianist in their respective countries. According to French critiques, Masaé is described as “musical” and a “true artist” with “piano tones like gems”. In the eyes of New York's critics Takeshi is referred to as a “genius,” “phenomenal” and an “amazingly fluid pianist”.

“Genre is not a boundary,” says Takeshi of the *Barbotte Asai Duo*. This is the axis of the vision of Takeshi's innovative record label, *de Trois Cités Records*.

The *Barbotte Asai Duo's* upcoming tour promises to be an opportunity for the two to work their miracles, entertaining new audiences with evenings of music unsurpassed in beauty and originality. The world tour of Barbotte Asai Duo kicks off their first concert in Paris on July 6, 2014, followed by New York, Tokyo and Kobe in 2015.

Tour Schedule:

Paris, July 6, 2014

New York, May 2, 2015

Tokyo, October 23, 2015

Kobe, October 25, 2015

Barbotte Asai Duo, official site: ba2.takeshiasai.com

Masaé Gimbayashi-Barbotte, official site: www.Masaépiano.com

Takeshi Asai, official site: www.takeshiasai.com

Record label: de trois cités records (New York, Paris & Tokyo)

Selected Reviews on Masaé Gimbayashi-Barbotte:

"Pianiste de talent - avec un récital de haute qualité et son charme asiatique tout en délicatesse, Masaé a enchanté le public." - Dauphiné Libéré

"Une nouvelle phase de la musique pour le piano a été montrée... Un tel challenge contient une difficulté hors du commun, mais les efforts de Masaé, osant attaquer d'à de telles difficultés, ont particulièrement du sens et de la valeur, et ont porté leurs fruits." – revue Chopin Japon

"Une sonorité éclatante, des sons beaux comme des bijoux qui se dégagent..." - Ongaku Gendai, Japon

"Elle sait toucher avec sa sensibilité là où l'esprit et le cœur se rejoignent dans le chemin de l'invisible et la création." - Alain Bizet, artiste peintre

"Je te remercie encore pour ton interprétation sublime et magnifiquement ressentie. » - Christian TOURNAY, compositeur

Selected Reviews on Takeshi:

"A fresh perspective. The music throughout French Trio, Vol. 1 has elements of jazz, classical and pop that is combined in a way that is fresh and extremely musical." - Jeff Williams on Takeshi's new CD "French Trio Vol. 1"

"[T]he biggest surprise since the beginning of the year in the jazz trio category."
- Robert Ratajczak, RadioJAZZ.fm on Takeshi Asai's "New York Trio, Vol. 1"

"Amazingly fluid pianist"
- Michael Fressola, Arts Editor for Staten Island Advance

"a true interpretation masterpiece and an excellent example of a perfect record in the piano duo category." - Robert Ratajczak, RadioJAZZ.fm on CD "A Tale of Three Cities"

"The real gem, shining brightly on this album is 'Le Crepuscule' referring to the most outstanding achievements in the world of jazz piano trio. Championship!"
- Robert Ratajczak, RadioJAZZ.fm