

Von: **Matei Varga** <mvarga@alexisgregoryfoundation.com>
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Subject: Recommendation for ROBERT BILY
To: concurso@albeniz.com <concurso@albeniz.com>

TO THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE OF THE 2022 SANTANDER INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION
"PALOMA O'SHEA"

Recommendation for Mr. Robert Bily

Dear Sir / Madam,

As Artistic Director of the Vendome Prize, I come in contact every year with a very large number of top-level young pianists. It is often hard to differentiate between performers who are all extremely well prepared, highly musical and who are hungry to be recognized on the international competition circuit. This year alone we had 60 pianists (all previously recommended by some of the world's leading musicians) and our preselection jury selected 12 to participate in the semi-final round which will take place next month. Robert Bily is one of them and I consider that he stands out even in this illustrious group.

Mr. Bily has a magnetic stage presence, exceptional training, charisma, and a deep and sincere understanding of the works he performs. While listening to his recordings, I was utterly impressed by his orchestral approach to Beethoven's Waldstein Sonata (almost conducting the piece, rather than simply playing it), his warm and singing tone in Chopin's B-flat minor Sonata, his sophisticated and nuanced interpretation of Debussy's Sarabande, and his perfectly constructed and beautifully layered last movement of the Dutilleux Sonata. Listening to him, one forgets that he is participating in a contest - his performance bears the mark of a mature artist performing a first class recital.

I believe that Robert Bily would be an exceptionally strong entry in your prestigious competition. Being a part of such an outstanding gathering of talent would undoubtedly bring him fresh motivation and renewed inspiration in his search for artistic excellence.

I am at your disposal should you require any further assistance.

Matei Varga

Artistic Director, The Vendome Prize

www.vendomeprize.com