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Albert Cano Smit, piano

A musician who has been praised as “a moving young poet” (*Le Devoir*), Spanish/Dutch pianist **Albert Cano Smit** enjoys a growing international career on the orchestral, recital, and chamber music stages. Noted for his captivating performances, storytelling quality and nuanced musicality, the First Prize winner of the 2019 Young Concert Artists Susan Wadsworth International Auditions has appeared as a soloist with the Las Vegas Philharmonic, the San Diego Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Montréal Symphony, the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, Elgin Symphony, Aiken Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, Orquesta Filarmónica de Boca del Río, Barcelona Symphony, Catalonia National Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, Nottingham Youth Orchestra, and American Youth Symphony.

Recital highlights have included his Carnegie Hall debut presented by The Naumburg Foundation, his Merkin Hall debut presented by Young Concert Artists, recitals at San Francisco’s Herbst Theatre, Paris’ Fondation Louis Vuitton (the performance was streamed live globally), the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater in Washington, DC, Germany’s Rheingau Music Festival, and return performances at the Steinway Society in San Jose. He has been in residence at France’s Festival de Musique de Wissembourg for seven years, a piano fellow at Bravo! Vail Music Festival and Tippet Rise Art Center, and had his recital debut in Asia at Xiamen’s Banlam Grand Theater.

Albert has been presented in recital by Festival Bach Montréal, Merkin Hall (New York City), the Cosmos Club (Washington, DC), University of Florida Performing Arts, the Krannert Center (Urbana, IL), and Matinée Musicale (Cincinnati, OH). He recently premiered Katherine Balch’s “Spolia” with flutist Anthony Trionfo taking them to the Morgan Library and Carnegie Hall. Recent recitals with Trionfo have included the Alys Stephens Center, Kravis Center, Evergreen Museum & Library, and others. Cano Smit is set to continue touring with violinist William Hagen, with whom he has recorded the CD, “Danse Russe”.

During the 23-24 season Albert will appear in recital and chamber music performances with the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, The Morgan Library & Museum (New York City), Arts Council of Moore County (NC), Madison-Morgan Cultural Center (GA), Vashon Center for the Arts (WA), Port Washington Library (NY), and will also participate in the inaugural chamber music ensemble of YCA on Tour visiting 11 cities throughout North America including appearances with Newport Classical, Clarion Concerts (MA), Asheville Chamber Music Society, Utsey Chamber Music Series @ Clemson University, Quick Center for the Arts @ Fairfield University, Bluedorn Performing Arts Center @ University of Northern Iowa, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Wengler Center for the Arts @ Pepperdine University (CA), University of Florida Performing Arts, BIG ARTS Sanibel Island (FL), and The Vail Series @ Denison University (OH). He will also appear as concerto soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Waterbury Symphony, Gulf Coast Symphony, and the Albany Symphony (GA).

An advocate for new music, Albert has premiered numerous solo works on his recital programs, commissioned for him by Stephen Hough, Miquel Oliu, and Katherine Balch. He has given four hand performances with Jean-Yves Thibaudet at the Wallis Annenberg Center Hall and Zipper Hall, taken part in the Jupiter Chamber Players in New York and the Bridgehampton Chamber Festival, and performed with such artists as Gary Hoffman, Andrej Bielow, Thomas Mesa, and Lev Sivkov. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with such ensembles as the Ebene, Szymanowski, Casals, Cosmos, Gerhard, and Verona Quartets, and has released an album of Austrian viola music for Champs Hills with Emma Wernig.

Albert was First Prize winner at the 2017 Walter W. Naumburg Piano Competition. Additional special prizes at the 2019 Young Concert Artists International Auditions include The Paul A. Fish Memorial Prize, the Alexander Kasza-Kasser Concert Prize for support of his Kennedy Center debut, the Friends of Music Concert Prize (NY), and the Sunday Musicale Prize (NJ).

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Albert recently completed an Artist Diploma with Robert McDonald at the Juilliard School, where he was awarded the 2020 Rubinstein Prize for Piano. Early on, he studied music at Montserrat mountain's Escolanía de Montserrat choir, where he sang as an alto. Later, he studied piano with Graham Caskie, Marta Karbownicka, and Ory Shihor. He is an alum of the Verbier Festival Academy and holds a BA in Piano Performance from the Colburn School, as well as a MM from the Juilliard School. He currently resides in New York City.