In memory of Fiona

From the very first edition, Fiona Albek was amongst the guests invited to participate in the Festival Ticino DOC.

Twin sister of Ambra – the likeness between them at first glance made distinguishing difficult – a constant presence on the Ticino musical scene and elsewhere, above all with Ambra in their piano and violin duo: they formed a strong musical, artistic and human bond.

Fiona made a much appreciated contribution to the Festival for years, which certainly did not pass unnoticed both for musical quality, and for the friendliness and joy which she knew how to transmit to all, with her generous smile and such contagious enthusiasm. Her debut as soloist with the Swiss Italian Orchestra was to be this year at the opening of the Festival – to be held in Montagnola, where she lived – with the Gemini Concert, written for Fiona and Ambra by William Perry, and already recorded by Naxos with the Dublin RTE National Symphony, directed by Paul Phillips.

However, fate decided otherwise, and the illness against which she had battled so courageously won over, leaving us all shocked and deeply saddened.

Fiona was a long time student of Nora Doallo, graduating under her at the Swiss Italian Conservatory, before specialization, obtaining maximum votes in Zurich, Imola, and in many master classes held by renowned musicians.

Numerous concerts in many European countries, in the United States, Cile, Argentina and in China saw her in the lead role.

Always generous with her fellow musicians – whom she loved to follow in concert, and often invited to her own musical programme, the Monday Concerts (I Concerti del Lunedi), held at the Boccadoro Concert Room in Montagnola – living intensely in tireless human and artistic research, finding answers, never mundane or obvious, within the depths of musical interpretation.

Fiona leaves a void which nobody can fill, even though her music remains firmly impressed in the hearts and minds of those who had the good fortune to hear her play, and in the four recorded works available:

* *South of the Alps*, music by De Falla, Turina, Albéniz, Poulenc e Lucchetti – Eroica Classical Recordings
* *Roaring Dramas*, music by Puccini, Mascagni and Leoncavallo adapted for duo by Alessandro Lucchetti – VDE-GALLO Disques
* *Sound in Search of a Past*, music by Grieg, Smetana, Janacek, Bartok, Bloch and Perry – VDE-GALLO Disques
* *Gemini Concerto*, music by William Perry with the Dublin RTE National Symphony and Paul Phillips – Naxos Records

We dedicate this Festival to Fiona, in her memory.