

RAINBOW OF MUSIC



This beautiful woman, with aristocratic presence, has long become a legend in the world of classical music. Ingrid Sala Santamaria. Even her name sounds like music! It is impossible to imagine her life without music. She is so filled with it, that it seems she breathes notes, not air. Ingrid is a world-renowned pianist. Two years ago, she celebrated her golden jubilee as a pianist. She considers as the beginning of her career the time when she won her first competition in 1962. This was the moment when the whole country learned about her, though actually, her music performances started way before this! She spent many years of hard work to get a glorious start. She became one of the best in her youth and remains so till today!

In the Ayala Museum on July 25, 2014, Ingrid performed concertos by Tchaikovsky and Schumann, which she played with the Manila Symphony Orchestra. This is one of the best orchestras in the Philippines. On that occasion, sixty instruments created a rich tapestry of feelings as a background for her solo piano rendition... Her playing defies the imagination,

she playing without the help of any score, knowing all those notes by heart. She played the two difficult concertos with the most difficult cadenzas! She lived the music of both concertos; while performing, she evoked again and again all the shades and moods, which the composers had put into their work. Ingrid played with all her heart, delineating all the drama, lyric poetry and grandeur of the scores; she emoted the music in the same way that these genius artists tried to do while composing their opuses. I felt this within my soul when I was listening to Ingrid's playing. Her genius interpretation allowed everyone to re-live the soul of the two composers and to experience the depth and fullness of their emotions.

As a writer, I can tell you that to write successfully about someone, you need to feel the soul of this person by assimilating his or her works and milieu. Only then are you able to convey the depth and worth of this person in the same way that Ingrid performed the works of those music geniuses. Putting words in a book is probably easier to describe and convey experiences than doing these through music. Besides you need to try to capture the moods and nuances in as many times as the occasions demand, especially when performing live concerts. Ingrid is ready to do so endlessly, over and over again, in an effort to re-live the composers' feelings!





Ingrid plays divinely, immersing herself fully into the music; she becomes music herself. Music fills her life with great meaning. When I listened to Ingrid's concertos, the image of a rainbow came to my mind, so vivid was her performance! So, as an artist myself, I tried to translate these emotions on canvas. This is how my painting "Rainbow Kailash," was born. The sky is a rainbow of colors like Ingrid's music, and I consider the legendary mountain in the center of the painting as multi-dimensional and as mysterious as Ingrid herself. I dedicate this painting to her.

I am eternally grateful for having met and known this amazing woman and for this, I have to thank another great woman: Congresswoman Imelda Marcos. Imelda is such a great person. She is not afraid to surround herself with outstanding people without being outshined; the half-a-century of friendship between Imelda and Ingrid proves it. Ingrid's house, which has, in fact, been turned into a museum, has a room dedicated just for the Marcoses, with numerous photos of their joint travels around the world when Imelda presented this great pianist to the world.

Ingrid Sala Santamaria is already a legend in her lifetime and her name at par with world-class musicians. It has put the Philippines on the mainstream, making the country a part of the world's culture. When you meet such a person, the only wish you have is to enjoy her talent for many, many more years to come.



Natalya Bronzova
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