

Irina Georgieva, Pianist

Swiss-Bulgarian pianist Irina Georgieva performs as a soloist and chamber musician on international stages across Europe, Asia and South America.

Her concert career has taken her to venues including Wigmore Hall in London, Vienna Musikverein, Berlin Philharmonie, Tonhalle Zurich, KKL in Lucerne, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Palau de la Música in Barcelona, Liederhalle Stuttgart, Konzerthaus Karlsruhe, Konzerthaus Freiburg, Kurhaus Wiesbaden, Casino Bern and Stadtcasino Basel.

As a soloist, she has appeared with over fifteen renowned orchestras, cooperating with conductors such as Ivor Bolton, Mario Venzago, Stefan Lano, Pablo González, Sascha Goetzel, Michal Nesterowicz and Juri Gilbo.

Irina has a particular liking for large-scale, highly virtuosic works. Her repertoire comprises more than twenty piano concertos, including works by Schumann, Tschaikowsky, Ravel and Gershwin, which she performs on a regular basis. An important focus is on Beethoven's five piano concertos and on Rachmaninoff's piano concertos; almost the entirety of Rachmaninoff's piano works is found in Irina's repertoire. Her penchant for major pianistic challenges is also evident in her solo repertoire, for example in Ravel's 'Gaspard de la nuit' and Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition'.

Her playing has been characterised as «of breakneck virtuosity»; it is precisely in her interpretations of the most technically demanding works that critics emphasise clarity, nuance and distinctive narrative structure.

Composer Sofia Gubaidulina praised Irina's 'richness of timbre, her musical power, the depth of her artistic vision and her impeccable sense of form'.

Marina Kapatsinskaya, Rudolf Buchbinder and Lazar Berman were instrumental in shaping Irina's artistic development. After winning the Steinway Competition in Berlin, Georgieva was invited by Buchbinder to join his masterclass at the Basel Academy of Music; their close collaboration lasted for seven years. From Berman, she received further important artistic inspiration.

Irina's discography contains solo, chamber music and orchestral recordings. Prospero Classical released her recording of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 and the 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' with the Basel Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Pablo González and Sascha Goetzel. The recording was nominated for the International Classical Music Awards (ICMA).

In her current solo project, 'Paradise Lost', Irina devotes herself to a complete performance of Rachmaninoff's Études-tableaux, op. 33 and op. 39. Regarding the individual 'pictures' as parts of a larger cycle, she explores the musical, conceptual and structural connections that emerge when experiencing the works as a whole.

Alongside her concert career, Irina is deeply committed to supporting young musicians. She is the founder and artistic director of PIANO TALENTS, launched the Franz Schubert Piano Competition for children and young musicians, and serves continually as a jury member and guest lecturer.

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