

## **Lisa Smirnova, piano**

*„... a great Mozart pianist as one has to look hard for in the younger generation“ RNZ*

*October, 2016*

*...A performance almost unique in its own more epic way, allowing it to stand with the many other fine accounts by Buchbinder, Barenboim, Brendel, Schnabel and scores of others. Again.....this one is a standout. Robert Cummings, Classical.net 2017*

Pianist Lisa Smirnova is one of the most remarkable artistic personalities performing today.

Deeply rooted in the music of the baroque and classical period, she is recognised as a renowned Mozart specialist, and as an outstanding interpreter of J.S. Bach, Händel and Scarlatti.

Lisa Smirnova made her debut at Carnegie Hall at the age of 20, followed by performances at Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Wigmore Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Konzerthaus in Vienna and the Salzburg Festival in the summer of 1996. Since then, she has regularly appeared in the US, Europe and Asia and has performed with renowned conductors such as Manfred Honeck, Ivor Bolton, Carlos Kalmar, Andrey Boreyko and Andres Mustonen.

A passionate champion of contemporary music, she regularly collaborates with renowned composers such as Wolfgang Rihm, Rodion Schedrin, Giya Kancheli and Valentin Silvestrov.

From a growing desire to be able to design a comprehensive, historically informed sound of the Baroque and Classical repertoire on a modern grand piano, and within a formation of other musicians, Lisa Smirnova founded the New Classic Ensemble Vienna in 2007, with whom she now realizes many of her artistic projects.

The recordings of Lisa Smirnova are critically acclaimed. Highlights are her rendition of the Eight Great Suites by Georg Friedrich Händel (2012, ECM New Series), and her Live Recording of Prokofiev's Sonata No. 8 and Beethoven op. 111 at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam (2017, Paladino Music). As a result of her collaboration with violinist Benjamin Schmid, the world-premiere recording of Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for violin with the piano accompaniment of Robert Schumann (1995/2011 MDG), as well as the recording of works by Shostakovich, Prokofiev and Weill (2015, Ondine) have also garnered exceptional reviews.

Born in Moscow, Lisa Smirnova left the former Soviet Union in 1991 for an opportunity to study with the renowned piano pedagogue Karl-Heinz Kämmerling at the Salzburg Mozarteum, and later with Maria Curcio and Robert Levin in London.

A new aspect of her artistic activity is the concert design – Lisa Smirnova creates new types of performance for classical music with the aim to put them in a new context with other artistic disciplines and that way enable a new approach for a brave and enthusiastic audience.

Lisa Smirnova lives in Vienna and Düsseldorf.