

Curriculum vitae

ILONA TIMCHENKO



'You can only marvel at such sheer quality ... this is among the most commanding and musically fascinating of all new and recent piano issues.'
"Gramophone"

'This is one of the most promising recording débuts that I have heard'
"International Record Review"

'Timchenko's playing has great clarity, while in the Paganini Variations, she discharges music of terrorizing technical difficulty with brilliance.'
"Sunday Times"

...absolutely extraordinary pianist with a very special, strong personality...
Martha Argerich.

Born in the Crimea, Ilona Timchenko, won first prize in the Third Abstract Securities Landor Competition in 2007, beating off strong international competition and winning a contract with Landor Records- her first CD on their label came out in 2009 and was selected for one of the inaugural 'Outstanding' accolades in International Record Review in January.

Blessed with phenomenal technique and powerful musical and expressive skills, she brought the packed audience at England's Buxton Festival to their feet in July 2008 at her debut recital there and in April 2010 she made her debut at Unione Musicale, one of the most prestigious festivals in Europe. She is now travelling the world's concert halls as her international career gathers momentum; having already appeared in recital at Wigmore Hall, Philips Hall in Holland, the Vienna Musikverein, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and Madrid's Monumental Theatre.

Ilona's playing blends Russian tradition with European style and warmth. Her Mozart is classically idiomatic and her Romantic repertoire, both in concerto and recital performance, powerful and endlessly poetic.

Timchenko became the first who has made a public performance of complete 24 Preludes and Fugues of Shostakovich in Italy. In 2010 Ilona signed a contract to record the complete piano music of one of the leading Spanish composers of our days - Anton Garcia Abril. The first set of two CD's is going to be released soon at Deutsche Grammophon.

In addition to her solo activities Timchenko is a keen chamber musician and makes regular appearances at festivals in the Netherlands, Spain, France and Russia alongside artists such as Rivka Golani, Mark Lubotsky, Philippe Graffin and Elias Quartett.

She studied in Moscow with the Bunins, Maria Polivanova and also studied composition with Albert Leman and Roman Ledeniov. She moved on to the Netherlands to work on interpretation and technique with Alexander Gold and Rian de Waal, in Italy with Lazar Berman and in France with Michel Beroff. She went on to win numerous other competitions including first prize in the Enesco Competition in Bucharest, as well as special awards in the Beethoven Competition in Vienna, the Liszt Competition in Utrecht, and the Maria Callas Grand Prix in Athens. In total Ilona has won 20 prizes at International Competitions, among them 7 First Prizes.

Since 2008 Ilona is an invited docent at the annual Summer Academy in the Netherlands – Peter de Grote Festival. In Spain in collaboration with School of Higher Music Studies EAEM she founded a piano course "Escuela Rusa". Ilona gives regular master classes in Spain, France, Italy, Russia.

Timchenko is a founder and Artistic Director of International Festival "Peregrinos Musicales", which takes place in Santiago de Compostela in collaboration with other festivals and organizations, such as The Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation, festival "Moscow meets friends", Royal Philharmonia of Galicia, among others.

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