

„...to see once more how sounds turn
into higher words.“

Eleonore Büning, June 2018



ELENA BASHKIROVA

PIANO

Biography

The pianist Elena Bashkirova once said, “Chamber music is music’s soul,” and this belief is evident in her work as a soloist, accompanist, ensemble musician, and program planner. Her approach to all aspects of music is one of empathetic collaboration and communication.

Among the highlights of the 2021/22 season for Bashkirova are recitals at the Ruhr Piano Festival, the Chamber Music Hall of the Berlin Philharmonic, the Konzerthaus Blaibach and the Beethoven Haus Bonn. Song recitals with Thomas Hampson, Olga Peretyatko, as well as Georg Nigl and Martina Gedeck are planned at the Prinzregententheater in Munich, the Cologne Philharmonie, the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels, and at the Heidelberger Frühling festival. As a soloist, Elena Bashkirova will perform de Fallas “Nights in the Gardens of Spain” and Mozart’s Concerto in C-Major KV 415 with the ORCAM Orchestra in Madrid, the Hamburger Philharmonic and the German Chamber Academy Neuss. A South American tour is planned, as well as chamber music concerts at the Boulez Hall in Berlin, the Kreuznach Klassik festival and the Mendelssohn House in Leipzig with international soloists from the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival.

Bashkirova comes from a Russian musical dynasty going back generations. Born in Moscow, she began her studies at the age of 15 in the class of her father, the legendary piano pedagogue Dmitry Bashkirov. Together with violinist Gidon Kremer, with whom she has often performed as a duo and has made a number of recordings, Elena Bashkirova left the Soviet Union in 1978 and moved to Paris. She has been influenced by her work with conductors such as Pierre Boulez, Sergiu Celibidache, and Michael Gielen. Since 1992, she has lived in Berlin with her husband, Daniel Barenboim.

Bashkirova is Artistic Director of the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival, which she founded in 1998. The festival takes place each year in September and has become a pillar of Israel’s cultural life, bringing together outstanding soloists from around the world. In addition, the widely acclaimed Intonations Festival has taken place in April of each year since 2012 in Berlin’s Jewish Museum. Together with musicians from these festivals, Elena Bashkirova performs regularly in the world’s most important chamber music series, including summer festivals such as the Lucerne Festival, the Rheingau Music Festival, the George Enescu Festival in Bucharest, and the Beethovenfest in Bonn. Numerous recordings document the highlights of programs conceived by Bashkirova for various chamber music groupings.

The repertoire for piano and voice is of particular importance to Bashkirova. The list of singers with whom she performs as a duo includes Anna Netrebko, Olga Peretyatko, Dorothea Röschmann, René Pape, and Robert Holl.

IMPRESARIAT SIMMENAUER

Bashkirova's recording of two Tchaikovsky cycles, "The Seasons" and "Album for Children", received the ICMA award in the category "solo instrument" in 2017. Her complete recording of Antonin Dvorak's "Poetic Tone Pictures" op. 85 was released in October 2020.

In 2018, Elena Bashkirova received the Ruhr Piano Festival Prize and was awarded an honorary doctoral degree by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Back in 2020 she was named conductor Kurt Masur's successor as President of the Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Foundation in Leipzig.

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