



SERGEI BABAYAN

PIANO

Hailed for unequalled emotional intensity, bold energy and phenomenal levels of color and imagination, Sergei Babayan brings new dimensions and insight to stylistically diverse repertoire. His artistic personality is a rare combination of emotional explosiveness and sensitivity, staggering virtuosity and immediacy.

A student of such legendary teachers and musicians as Gornostayeva, Naumov, Pletnev and Vlasenko in the Moscow Conservatory, Sergei Babayan was one of the first pianists from the former USSR who was able to compete without government sponsorship after the collapse of the system.

Immediately after his first trip outside of the USSR, he won consecutive first prizes in several major international competitions, including the Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition (formerly the Cleveland International Piano Competition) in 1989, the Palm Beach International Piano Competition in 1990, the Hamamatsu Piano Competition in 1991 and the Scottish International Piano Competition in 1992.

Since that time he has had major engagements and concert tours throughout Europe, Japan, New Zealand,

Australia, South Africa, South America and the USA.

His New York recitals at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall, and performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony and Detroit Symphony met with huge critical acclaim, as have his many subsequent recital and concerto performances throughout all the major cities in the US. His concert schedule has included performances and broadcasts throughout major European cities and extensive tours of Japan. He appeared with recitals in such important venues as Salle Gaveau in Paris, Wigmore Hall in London, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Warsaw Philharmonic, Severance Hall in Cleveland, Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Herkulesaal in Munich, Liederhalle in Stuttgart, Meistersingerhalle in Nurnberg, Konzerthaus in Berlin, Brahms-Saal in Karlsruhe, Beethovenhalle in Bonn, Rudolfinum-Dvorak Hall in Prague and many others.

He has made several highly praised recordings for *EMC*, *Connoisseur Society* and *Pro Piano* labels. His recordings of Scarlatti, Ligeti, Messiaen, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Ravel, Schubert, Liszt, Vine, Respighi and Prokofiev garnered high acclaims, including a "Critic's Choice" in *The New York Times*, praising Babayan's "extraordinary technique and ability to play densely harmonized works with illuminating transparency and a daunting measure of control." *American Record Guide* joins in these accolades, praising his "phenomenal level of color and imagination." About the recording of Scarlatti Sonatas, *American Guide* said: "It can stand proudly beside that of Horowitz..."

Mr. Babayan has appeared with many major orchestras throughout the world including the London Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestra of Mariinsky Theatre, the Warsaw Philharmonic, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre Nationale de Lille, the Detroit Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony and the New World Symphony.

He has collaborated with such conductors as Valery Gergiev, Yuri Temirkanov, Neeme Jarvi, Hans Graf, David Robertson, Kazimierz Kord and Michael Christie, and his concerto repertoire is constantly growing – he has performed 54 concertos to date.

In May of 2006 Sergei Babayan was invited by Valery Gergiev to perform Lutoslawsky's piano concerto in the XIV International Festival "Stars of the White Nights" in St. Petersburg with the Orchestra of Mariinsky Theatre. He was again invited by Gergiev to perform Prokofiev's 3rd piano concerto in his Easter Festival, and he garnered much critical acclaim for this 2010 performance with the London Symphony Orchestra, once again, under the direction of Gergiev.

Other recent highlights include recitals in the Mariinsky Theatre and the 92nd Street Y in New York, the Prague Spring Festival with the Janacek Chamber Orchestra, a performance of Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto in Belfast which was broadcast by the BBC, and performances of Beethoven *Concerto No. 1* and Rachmaninov *Concerto No. 3* with Valery Gergiev and the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre.