

**Stravinsky's Violin Concerto and arrangements for violin and piano:
a masterwork in "Neoclassical" style and
brilliant additions to the repertoire**

LIANA GOURDJIA
KATIA SKANAVI piano
Deutsche Radio Philharmonie
Zsolt Nagy

Igor Stravinsky

- Violin Concerto
- Chanson Russe
- Danse Russe
- Divertimento
- Suite italienne
- Berceuse
- Tango



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Stravinsky's rarely-performed Violin Concerto, coupled with the main works of his repertoire for violin and piano. The composer first hesitated to write a violin concerto, but he went on to compose a masterwork in "Neoclassical" style in close collaboration with violinist Samuel Dushkin. He also made numerous arrangements for violin and piano, joining again with Dushkin to enrich the violin repertoire with his imaginative genius.

Stravinsky's rarely-performed Violin Concerto, coupled with the main works of his repertoire for violin and piano. The composer was initially convinced that he lacked the experience necessary for writing a violin concerto and taking full advantage of the instrument's possibilities in concertante style. But in 1931 he went on to compose a Neoclassical masterwork in close collaboration with violinist Samuel Dushkin, a work that bears his unmistakable fingerprint. It is considered one of the 20th century's greatest violin concertos. He also made numerous arrangements for violin and piano, joining again with Dushkin to enrich the violin repertoire with his imaginative genius. Along with the multi-movement works, the *Suite italienne* and *Divertimento*, Liana Gourdjia and Katia Skanavi present a selection of miniatures: the *Berceuse* from *The Firebird*, the *Danse russe* from *Petrushka*, the *Chanson russe* from the opera *Mavra*, and *Tango*, a piano piece arranged by Dushkin for violin and piano.

Liana Gourdjia gave her solo debut with orchestra at the age of nine. Her talent was then actively supported, and she performed numerous concerts in Russia's great concert halls as well as on radio and television. She studied at the Moscow Central School of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music in the U.S.. She is the winner of the Sion-Valais International Competition and a prizewinner at the Michael Hill, Corpus Christi, Hudson Valley, and Kingsville International competitions. She has been awarded a residency with the Montgomery Symphony in the U.S., where she appeared as an orchestral soloist and concertmaster and performed solo recitals.



Katia Skanavi

Katia Skanavi performed her first concert at the age of 12 at the Great Hall of Moscow's Tchaikovsky Conservatory, where she interpreted Kabalevsky's Third Piano Concerto under the baton of the composer himself. By her eighteenth birthday she had won several prizes at the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Competition in Paris, followed by debuts at the great international concert halls. She then continued her studies at the Conservatoire National in Paris and Moscow's Tchaikovsky Conservatory, and later at the Cleveland Institute of Music in the U.S.. In 1994 she won the Maria Callas Competition in Greece and was a finalist at the Van Cliburn Competition in 1997.

Zsolt Nagy studied conducting with István Párkai at the Ferenc Liszt Academy in Budapest. Further studies with Péter Eötvös led him to become Eötvös' assistant at the Institute for New Music of the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe and for numerous other projects including Guest Professor at the International Eötvös Institute. In 1999 he was appointed Chief Conductor and Musical Advisor of the Israel Contemporary Players. From 2002 to 2014 he was Professor of Conducting at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse in Paris (CNSMDP). Zsolt Nagy appears regularly on stages of four continents, working with outstanding soloists, leading orchestras, ensembles and choirs.

The **Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern** presents concert series in the cities of Saarbrücken and Kaiserslautern. It makes regular appearances across the border in France and Luxemburg, as well as in Brussels, Mainz, Karlsruhe, and Mannheim. Tours in recent years have taken the orchestra to Switzerland, China, and Japan, and in 2016 it will be visiting South Korea for the third time, followed by an appearance at the Warsaw Beethoven Festival in 2017. The Deutsche Radio Philharmonie was created in 2007 out of the fusion of the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Saarbrücken (SR) and Rundfunkorchester Kaiserslautern (SWR).

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