

most successful chamber music group" (2015) for Elyon Trio (Victoria Vassilenko - piano; Laura Szabo - cello and Mohamed Hiber - violin)

Concerts in important venues, International Music Festivals, orchestras:

Auditorio Nacional de Música (Madrid), Palau de la Música (Barcelona), "Alte Oper" (Frankfurt), "Ateneum" (Bucharest), „Flagey“ and „BOZAR“ (Brussels), „Teatro de la Maestranza“, Sevilla; "Bulgaria" ball (Sofia), solo and chamber music concerts in Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, USA, Slovakia, Spain, Palma de Mallorca, Portugal etc. "Musica Mundi" Chamber Music Festival, Waterloo (2009,2010,2011), "Santander" International Academy and Festival, Spain; "Mozarteum", Salzburg, „Oberstorfer Musiksommer“, "Young Classics Europe", Passau; „LacMus“ festival, Tremezzina, "Appolonia", "March music days", "Varna summer" music festival; "Sofia music weeks", "European Music Festival", "Music days in Balabanov's house", "Katya Popova Laureate days" International Music Festival (Bulgaria) and others. Soloist of: Brussels Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre Chambre de Wallonie (cond. Franck Braley), Royal Symphony Orchestra of Sevilla; Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra (USA), Royal Symphony Orchestra of Liverpool (UK), George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra (Bucharest), Classic FM Orchestra, Sofia Philharmonic, orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio, "Sofia soloists" Chamber Orchestra etc.

Foundation scholarships:

"Dimitar Berbatov" foundation, "1000 scholarships", "St.St. Cyril and Methodis", "Yordan Kamdzhalov" foundation for promising young musicians, "American foundation for Bulgaria", "Albeniz" and others. Victoria is indebted to much-net AG (a medium-sized company in Bonn/Germany). Recordings and CD releases: "Trio ASISA" chamber music CD with works of J. Brahms and A. Piazzola (Madrid,2012); CD with live and studio recordings, made by the Bulgarian National Radio (works by Fr. Schubert, P. Hindemith, R. Shchedrin), Sofia 2014; CD release with music by Antoine Reicha (project of „Queen Elisabeth“ Music Chapel, February 2017). Broadcasts and recordings in Bulgaria, UK, Slovakia, Spain.

Louis Lortie

For over three decades, French-Canadian pianist Louis Lortie has performed world-wide, building a reputation as one of the world's most versatile pianists. He extends his interpretative voice across a broad spectrum of repertoire, and his performances and award-winning recordings attest to his remarkable musical range.

In demand on five continents, Lortie has established long-term partnerships with orchestras such as the BBC Symphony

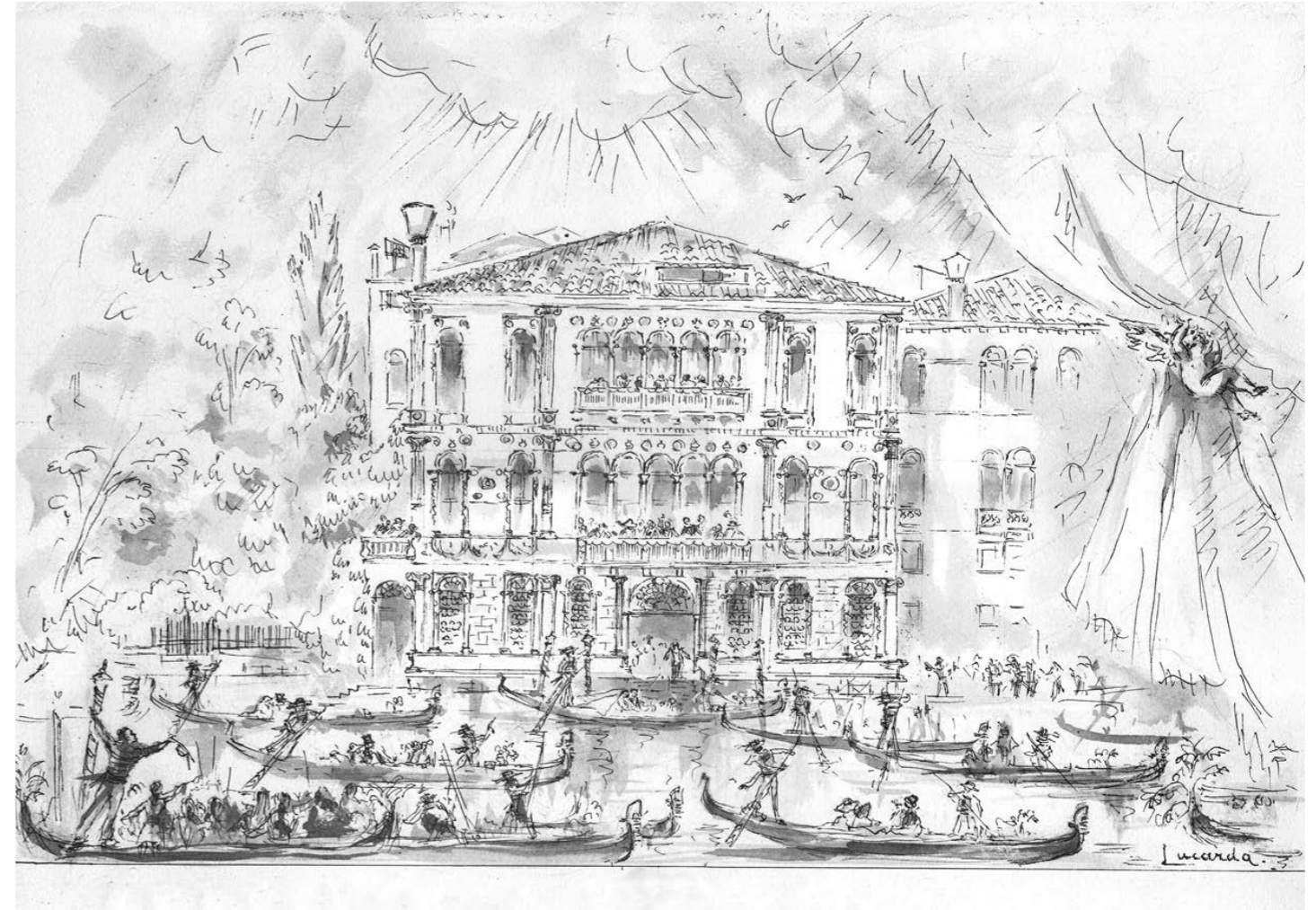
Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France and Dresden Philharmonic in Europe, and the Philadelphia Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, San Diego Symphony and St Louis Symphony in the US. In his native Canada he regularly performs with the major orchestras in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa and Calgary. Further afield, collaborations include the Shanghai Symphony, the Hong Kong Philharmonic and the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, and the Adelaide and Sydney Symphony Orchestras. Regular partnerships with conductors include, among others, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Edward Gardner, Sir Andrew Davis, Jaap Van Zweden, Simone Young, Antoni Wit and Thierry Fischer.

In recital and chamber music, Louis Lortie appears in the world's most prestigious concert halls and festivals, including London's Wigmore Hall, the Philharmonie de Paris, Carnegie Hall, Chicago Symphony Hall, the Beethovenfest Bonn and Liszt Festival Raiding. Louis Lortie is co-founder and Artistic Director of the LacMus International Festival on Lake Como and a Master in Residence at The Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel of Brussels. Together with fellow pianist Hélène Mercier, as the Lortie-Mercier duo, he has also shed new light on the repertoire for four hands and two pianos both in the concert hall and on several best-selling recordings.

Special projects for 2019/20 season include performances of Liszt 'complete *Années de Pèlerinage* in one evening at the Beethoven Festspiele and CAL Performances. Celebrating Beethoven's special anniversary in 2020, he will perform a complete sonata cycle in Montreal and Waterloo (Belgium) as well as a complete concerto cycle with the New-Jersey Symphony and Xian Zhang.

A prolific recording artist, Lortie's thirty-year relationship with Chandos Records has produced a catalogue of over 45 recordings on the label, covering repertoire from Mozart to Stravinsky, including a complete Beethoven sonata cycle and the complete Liszt 'Années de pèlerinage', which was named as one of the top ten recordings of 2012 by the New Yorker. His recording of the Lutoslawski Piano Concerto with Edward Gardner and the BBC Symphony Orchestra received high praise, as have his Chopin recordings. In duet with Hélène Mercier, he recorded *Carnival of the Animals* with Neeme Jarvi and the Bergen Philharmonic and Vaughan-Williams' *Concerto for Two Pianos* as well as Rachmaninov's complete works for two pianos. Current recording projects include the five Saint-Saëns piano concertos with Edward Gardner and BBC Philharmonic, solo piano works by Fauré and the complete works of Chopin. He has also recorded two acclaimed CDs with violinist Augustin Dumay for Onyx Classics.

Louis Lortie studied in Montreal with Yvonne Hubert (a pupil of the legendary Alfred Cortot), in Vienna with Beethoven specialist Dieter Weber, and subsequently with Schnabel disciple Leon Fleisher. In 1984, he won First Prize in the Busoni Competition and the same year he was a prizewinner at the Leeds Competition.



*In honour of Winnaretta Singer
Princesse Edmond de Polignac (1865 – 1943)
and in support of the Spirit of Venice*

Palazzo Polignac, Grand Canal, Venice, Tuesday, December 31, 2019

Program



Eric Satie: *Gnossienne No. 3*

Maurice Ravel: *Pavane pour une infante défunte*

Francois Poulenc: *Concerto pour 2 pianos: Larghetto and Finale*

Gabriel Fauré: *Cinq melodies “de Venise”*

(Mandoline, En sourdine, Green, à Clymène, c’est l’extase)



Igor Stravinsky: *Sonate pour piano*

Reynaldo Hahn: *Mélodie*

Edmond de Polignac: *Mélodie*

Claude Debussy: *Prelude*

(Les fées sont d’exquises danseuses)

Maurice Ravel: *Concerto en Sol (two piano version)*

- Allegramente-Adagio assai-Presto

Gabriel Fauré: *In Paradisum*

(from Requiem)

Dietrich Henschel

Baritone Dietrich Henschel captivates audiences as a regular guest at major opera houses, an esteemed interpreter of lieder and oratorios as well as with his multimedia projects. His repertoire stretches from Monteverdi to the avant-garde. Born in Berlin and having grown up in Nuremberg, he made his debut in 1990 at the Munich Biennale for New Music and first became known internationally from 1997. At the Deutsche Oper Berlin he took the title role in Hans Werner Henze’s *Prinz von Homburg*, staged by Götz Friedrich, and gave an outstanding lead performance in Busoni’s *Doktor Faust* at the Opéra de Lyon and the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, for which he won a Grammy.

The singer’s major roles include Rossini’s *Figaro*, *Wolfram* in Wagner’s *Tannhäuser*, Monteverdi’s *Ulisse* and *Orfeo*, Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, Beckmesser in Wagner’s *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, Alban Berg’s *Wozzeck* and *Dr. Schön* in *Lulu*, Golaud in Debussy’s *Pelléas et Mélisande* and *Nick Shadow* in Stravinsky’s *The Rake’s Progress*, with which he makes regular appearances at the major European opera houses. Contemporary composers such as Péter Eötvös, Detlev Glanert, Manfred Trojahn, Unsuk Chin, Peter Ruzicka and José-Maria Sanchez-Verdu have all dedicated leading roles in their operas to the baritone.

In addition to his operatic work, Dietrich Henschel is committed to the performance of lieder and concert works for voice. In orchestral concerts he has worked with conductors such as Riccardo Chailly, Kent Nagano, Cornelius Meister, Sylvain Cambreling and Semyon Bychkov. His collaborations with John Eliot Gardiner, Philippe Herreweghe, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Colin Davis are documented on numerous oratorio recordings. Dietrich Henschel is particularly interested in theatrical and multimedia presentations of vocal music. He has performed staged versions of Schubert lieder cycles at La Monnaie, Theater an der Wien, Den Norske Opera Oslo and the Komische Oper Berlin, among others. In the project *IRRSAL – Triptychon einer verbotenen Liebe*, featuring the orchestral songs of Hugo Wolf, he combined film and live concert; his project featuring songs by Gustav Mahler, *WUNDERHORN*, was a collaboration with director Clara Pons, and was developed as a co-production between several European partners including De Doelen, La Monnaie and the BBC Symphony Orchestra London.

Last season, Dietrich Henschel presented a varied repertoire: in addition to playing the *Speaker of the Temple* in *Zauberflöte* at La Monnaie staged by Romeo Castellucci, he reprised the title role in Peter Ruzicka’s opera *Benjamin* at the Hamburg State Opera and played *Martin Luther* in the world premiere of Bo Holten’s opera *Schlagt sie tot!* in Malmö. He also performed at the Suntory Hall Tokyo, singing Schönberg’s *Gurrelieder* with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra under Sylvain Cambreling, and at the Berlin Philharmonic for Haydn’s *Jahreszeiten* with the Rundfunk-

Sinfonieorchester Berlin under Vladimir Jurowski. In the 2019/20 season, Dietrich Henschel is guesting at the Deutsche Oper Berlin in Chaya Czernowin’s world premiere *Heart Chamber* and taking on the role of *Faninal* in Damiano Michieletto’s new production of Strauss’s *Der Rosenkavalier* at La Monnaie/De Munt in Brussels. His Christmas project *X-mas Contemporary*, created in collaboration with Vladimir Jurowski and the ensemble *United*, will be performed for the first time in the Konzerthaus Berlin and in Düsseldorf. Further guest performances include Brahms’ *Requiem* under Kazushi Ono in Barcelona, the *Schubert Festival* with the Orchester Symphonique Montréal in Canada, Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with RTVE in Madrid, and Mahler’s *Kindertotenlieder* in Tokyo paired with a recital tour of Japan, where his new recording of Schubert’s *Die schöne Müllerin* will be presented.

Victoria Vassilenko

was born in 1992 in Burgas, Bulgaria. She comes from a family of musicians.

Education:

“Lyubomir Pipkov” National School of Music, Sofia (1999-2011). Teachers: Antonina Boneva; prof. Stella Dimitrova-Maystorova; “Queen Sofia” Superior College of Music, Madrid (2011-2015) Teachers: prof. Dmitri Bashkirov (piano); prof. Marta Gulyas (chamber music); “New Bulgarian University”, Sofia (Bachelor degree); “Lake of Como” International Piano Academy, Italy (since 2015) Teachers: head prof. William Grant-Nabore; “Queen Elisabeth” Music Chapel, Brussels (since 2016) Teachers: Avedis Kouyoumdzbian; Louis Lortie; „Royal Conservatory of Music“, Brussels (Masters degree since 2017) Teacher: prof. Boyan Vodenitcharov

Competition prizes and other awards:

Numerous first, second and special prizes from national and international piano competitions in Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, Czech Republic, England, Romania, including “Chopin in memoriam” (Varna 2010), First prize, “Alber Roussel”, First prize and special prize for interpretation of Chopin, Sofia 2008 and others. Second prize winner (first not awarded) of “James Mottram” International Piano Competition, UK (2012); winner of the “George Enescu” International Competition, piano section (Bucharest, Romania 2016); „Les Jeudis du Piano“ International Music Festival and Competition (Geneve, Switzerland) - winner of the 2016/2017 concert season; „Golden age“ for cultural contribution in Bulgaria; “Crystal lyre” awards for best young musician (2007) and chamber music group (2011), Sofia. Awards from Her Royal Majesty Queen Sofia for “The most successful student of the year” from the piano class of prof. Bashkirov (2013) and “The