



GRIGORY SOKOLOV

Piano

The unique, unrepeatable nature of music made in the present moment is central to understanding the expressive beauty and compelling honesty of Grigory Sokolov's art. The Russian pianist's poetic interpretations, which come to life with mystical intensity in performance, arise from profound knowledge of the works in his vast repertoire. His recital programmes span everything from transcriptions of medieval sacred polyphony and keyboard works by Byrd, Couperin, Rameau, Froberger to the music of Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Brahms and landmark twentieth-century compositions by Prokofiev, Ravel, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, Schoenberg and Stravinsky. He is widely recognized among pianophiles as one of today's greatest pianists, an artist universally admired for his visionary insight, spellbinding spontaneity and uncompromising devotion to music.

Grigory Sokolov was born in St Petersburg. He started to play piano at the age of five and, two years later, began studies with Liya Zelikhman at the Central Special School of the Leningrad Conservatory. He went on to receive lessons from Moisey Khalfin at the Leningrad Conservatory, and gave his debut recital in Leningrad in 1962. Sokolov's prodigious talent was recognized in 1966 when at 16, he became the youngest musician ever to receive the Gold Medal at the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow. Emil Gilels, chairman of the Tchaikovsky Competition jury, subsequently championed Sokolov's work.

Grigory Sokolov performed as concerto soloist with the most prestigious orchestras before deciding to focus exclusively on giving solo recitals. Sokolov performs around 70 concerts each season, immersing himself fully in a single programme and touring extensively throughout Europe.

Sokolov signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon and a first album was released in January 2015, a sensational recital recorded live at the 2008 Salzburg Festival. The double-disc set's contents reflect the breadth and depth of his repertoire, comprising two sonatas by Mozart, Chopin's 24 Préludes Op.28 and encore pieces by J.S. Bach, Chopin, Rameau and Scriabin. Sokolov's Salzburg Recital album was followed in January 2016 by the release of a second two-disc set, Sokolov Schubert/ Beethoven. In March 2017 his last CD was released with concerti of Mozart and Rachmaninoff.

SEASON 2017/2018

WE UPDATE OUR BIOGRAPHIES REGULARLY. PLEASE DO NOT USE PREVIOUSLY DATED MATERIAL.