

Valentina Seferinova

Award winning pianist Valentina Seferinova was born in Vidin, on the River Danube in Bulgaria. Recognised as a 'child prodigy', she gave solo recitals and played with many different chamber ensembles and symphony orchestras (both as soloist and accompanist) from a very early age. As well as numerous concert appearances in her native Bulgaria, Valentina has performed in Germany, Italy, France, Poland, Russia, Turkey and the United Kingdom. She also plays and records frequently for Bulgarian National Radio and Television; and her recordings are featured on BBC Radio 3.

Miss Seferinova studied under Bulgaria's foremost piano teacher, Professor Dr. Lubomir Dinolov (a former graduate of the Moscow Conservatoire), graduating with a Master of Music (Theory) degree from The National Academy of Music, Sofia, in 1994. She subsequently taught as Assistant Professor of Piano (Performance) at the same Academy until she moved to the United Kingdom in the autumn of 1998.

Her work as editor (and often first performer) of many of Dinolov's piano transcriptions for four hands is a tribute to both her academic prowess and her pianism.

In September 1998 she, together with colleague Emilia Mihaylova, gave the première performance in Bulgaria of the complete four-handed piano works of Debussy. This event was recorded and subsequently issued on CD. In 1999, on the anniversary of his birth, the duo were invited to play the composer's 4-hand "Intégrale" again at the Claude Debussy House & Museum, St. Germain-en-Laye, Paris - an accolade rarely granted; and also a première. In the same year, Valentina gave a private recital for the A.G.M. of The Rachmaninoff Society, whose President is Vladimir Ashkenazy. In September 2004 Valentina was invited by St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, to give a recital in their "Pianists of the World" series; which was received by a mainly standing ovation. In April 2005 The Rachmaninoff Society invited her back to give another private recital during their 2005 International Conference & A.G.M. weekend in London, and in the presence of 2 Great Grand-Children of Sergei Rachmaninov; she received a standing ovation - to a person. She was invited back for an unprecedented third time for their 2008 A.G.M.; and for their 2009 A.G.M. performed as part of the piano duo 'Va i Ve'.

In March 2003, Valentina Seferinova made the world première recording of three solo piano works by the 19th Century Swiss composer, Joachim Raff, for the new label – Cahoots Classical. This CD has received fulsome critical praise both here (4½ stars out of 5) and abroad (the reviewer of The American Record Guide was moved to comment "Ms Seferinova has a grand technique and plays brilliantly. The recording is very wide range and well placed. The notes are excellent.").

During 2007 and 2008 Miss Seferinova worked on a pioneering project of performances and recordings of the music by 19th century Romantic composers – Zygmunt Noskowski (1846 – 1909). The resultant CD was released on the Acte Préalable label in March 2009.

In December 2008 Miss Seferinova performed a world premiere public performance of Salomon Jadassohn's (1831 – 1902) Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No.1 Op. 89 in C minor, with the Karelia State Philharmonic Orchestra in Petrozavodsk, Russia; this performance was recorded and has been released on the Cameo Classics label.

On 11th November 2010 (Remembrance Day) she appeared as Guest Soloist with the Orion Symphony Orchestra at London's Cadogan Hall performing Dorothy Howells's 'Piano Concerto in D minor' - the work's first public and professional performance in over 70 years; which was recorded for issue on the Cameo Classics label.

She currently combines a lectureship at the South Downs College in Hampshire with a performance schedule of concerts and recitals in the United Kingdom and abroad.

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