



IMG Artists

## EVGENY KISSIN PIANIST

**Evgeny Kissin** was born in Moscow in October 1971 and began to play by ear and improvise on the piano at the age of two. At six years old, he entered a special school for gifted children, the Moscow Gnessin School of Music, where he was a student of Anna Pavlovna Kantor, who has remained his only teacher. At the age of ten, he made his concerto debut playing Mozart's *Piano Concerto K. 466* and gave his first solo recital in Moscow one year later. He came to international attention in March 1984 when, at the age of twelve, he performed Chopin's *Piano Concertos 1 and 2* in the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory with the Moscow State Philharmonic under Dmitri Kitaenko. This concert was recorded live by Melodia, and a two-LP album was released the following year. During the next two years, several Kissin performances in Moscow were recorded live and five more LPs were released by Melodia.

Kissin's first appearances outside Russia were in 1985 in Eastern Europe, followed a year later by his first tour of Japan. In 1987 he made his West European debut at the Berlin Festival. In 1988 he toured Europe with the Moscow Virtuosi and Vladimir Spivakov and also made his London debut with the London Symphony Orchestra under Valery Gergiev. In December of the same year he performed with Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic in a New Year's concert which was broadcast internationally, with the performance repeated the following year at the Salzburg Easter Festival. Audio and video recordings of the New Year's concert were made by Deutsche Grammophon.

In 1990 Kissin made his first appearance at the BBC Promenade Concerts in London and that same year made his North American debut, performing both Chopin piano concertos with the New York Philharmonic conducted by Zubin Mehta. The following week he opened Carnegie Hall's Centennial season with a spectacular debut recital, which was recorded live by BMG Classics.

Musical awards and tributes from around the world have been showered upon Kissin. In 1987 he received the Crystal Prize of the Osaka Symphony Hall for the best performance of the year 1986 (his first performance in Japan). In 1991 he received the Musician of the Year Prize from the Chigiana Academy of Music in Siena, Italy. He was special guest at the 1992 Grammy Awards Ceremony, broadcast live to an audience estimated at over one billion, and became *Musical America's* youngest Instrumentalist of the Year in 1995. In 1997 he received the prestigious Triumph Award for his outstanding contribution to Russia's culture, one of the highest cultural honors to be awarded in the Russian Republic, and again, the youngest-ever awardee. He was the first pianist to be invited to give a recital at the BBC Proms (1997), and, in the 2000 season, was the first concerto soloist ever to be invited to play in the Proms opening concert. In May 2001 Kissin was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music by the Manhattan School of Music. In December 2003 in Moscow, he received the Shostakovich Award, one of Russia's highest musical honors. In June 2005 he was awarded an Honorary Membership of the Royal Academy of Music in London. In March 2009 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the Hong Kong University.

Kissin's recordings have also received numerous awards and accolades, including the Edison Klassiek in The Netherlands and the Diapason d'Or and the Grand Prix of La Nouvelle Academie du Disque in France, as well as awards from music magazines throughout the world. His recording of works by Scriabin, Medtner and Stravinsky (RCA Red Seal) won him a Grammy in 2006 for Best Instrumental Soloist and, in 2002, he was named Echo Klassik Soloist of the Year.

In 2010 he was awarded the Grammy for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance (With Orchestra) for his recording of Prokofiev's *Piano Concertos Nos. 2 and 3* with the Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy (EMI Classics).

His first studio recording, in 1988 for RCA Red Seal, was of Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with Gergiev/London Symphony Orchestra, and six *Etudes-Tableaux, Op. 39*. Other works recorded for RCA Red Seal are two Chopin recital programs, one with the four *Ballades, Barcarolle, Berceuse, and Scherzo No. 4, Op. 54*, and another with the *24 Preludes Op. 28, Sonata No. 2 and Polonaise in A-flat*; Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, Brahms' *Variations on a Theme of Paganini*, and Franck's *Prelude, Choral and Fugue*; Schumann's *Fantasy, Op. 17* and five *Etudes d'execution transcendante* by Liszt; Schumann's *Kreisleriana* and the Bach-Busoni *Chaconne*; Bach-Busoni *Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C major*; Glinka-Balakirev *The Lark* and Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*; Schumann's *Sonata No. 1 in F sharp minor* and *Carnaval*; and an all-Brahms disc including *Sonata No. 3 in F Minor* and five Hungarian dances. A duo recital with James Levine of works by Schubert was recorded live at Carnegie Hall in 2005 and released in 2006.

Other recital albums include Schubert *Sonata No. 21 in B flat major* and Schubert-Liszt *Four Songs* (BMG/RCA Victor Red Seal), Schubert *Wanderer Fantasie*, Brahms *Seven Pieces, Op. 116*, Liszt *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12* (Deutsche Grammophon) and Haydn *Sonata No. 30 in A major, Sonata No. 52 in E flat major*, and Schubert *Sonata in A minor D784* (Sony).

Among concerto recordings are the complete Beethoven *Piano Concertos* with Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra (EMI); Mozart *Piano Concerto No 24* and Schumann *Piano Concerto* with Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra (EMI); Schumann *Concerto* with the Vienna Philharmonic and Giulini (Sony Classical); Beethoven *Piano Concertos Nos. 2 and 5* with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Levine (Sony Classical); Prokofiev *Concertos Nos. 1 and 3* with the Berlin Philharmonic and Abbado (Deutsche Grammophon) and Rachmaninoff *Concerto No. 3* with the Boston Symphony and Ozawa (RCA Red Seal); Mozart *Concertos Nos. 12 and 20* and *Rondo in D major KV. 382*, Haydn *Concerto in D major*, Shostakovich *Concerto No. 1* with the Moscow Virtuosi and Spivakov (RCA Red Seal); Beethoven *Choral Fantasy* with the Berlin Philharmonic and Abbado (Deutsche Grammophon); Prokofiev *Concertos Nos. 2 and 3* with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Ashkenazy (EMI Classics). A recent recording with Kremerata Baltica of Mozart *Concertos Nos. 20 and 27* will be a forthcoming release on EMI.

Christopher Nupen's documentary film, *Evgeny Kissin: The Gift of Music*, was released in 2000 on video and DVD by RCA Red Seal.

Kissin's musicality, the depth and poetic quality of his interpretations, and his extraordinary virtuosity have placed him at the forefront of the world's new generation of young pianists. He is in demand the world over, and has appeared with many great conductors, including Abbado, Ashkenazy, Barenboim, Dohnanyi, Giulini, Levine, Maazel, Muti, Ozawa, Svetlanov and Temirkanov, as well as all the world's major orchestras. He makes regular recital tours to the United States and throughout Europe and Asia.

The beginning of the 2010-2011 season sees engagements in major cities across Europe, including London, Milan, Paris, Salzburg, Vienna, and many more. He will then embark on a North American tour, featuring solo recitals, chamber recitals with Yuri Bashmet, and performances with the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

**All changes must be approved by management.**