

# DONKA ANGATSCHEVA

## pianist

The pianist Donka Angatscheva, born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, began her career as a soloist with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Plovdiv at the age of ten. During her work with her teachers Maria Slavova, Diana Slavova and Prof. Milena Mollova (a pupil of Emil Gilels) she was awarded the first prize at the national competition 'Dimitar Nenov' in Razgrad in Bulgaria in 1987, the second prize (the first one not being awarded) at the international piano competition in Salerno, Italy in 1989 and the second prize at the international competition AMTI-Plovdiv in 1996.

After her training in Bulgaria, she studied with Prof. Heinz Medjimorec (Haydn Trio, Vienna) at the University of Music and the Performing Arts in Vienna; M.A. graduation in 2004.

In 1998, Donka Angatscheva was a scholarship recipient of the Society of Friends of the University of Music and the Performing Arts in Vienna, a recipient of the Martha Sobotka Charlotte Janeczek scholarship in 1999, of a scholarship of the Swiss Thyll-Dürr Foundation from 2000 to 2002 and of the Gonda Weiner scholarship in 2004.

Her artistic development has been heavily influenced by master classes held by musicians such as Ludmil Angelov, Boris Romanov, Catherine Vickers, Peter Efler, Tiny Wirtz and Oxana Yablonskaya.

She has won prizes at many competitions. At the international chamber music competition in Saloniki, Greece, she won the first prizes with Daniela Ivanova, the violist of the Vienna Philharmonic, in 2003 and with her piano trio Trio D'Ante in 2004, was awarded a third prize (again with Daniela Ivanova) at the International Johannes Brahms Competition in Pörschach, Austria, in 2005, and won the first prize at the international chamber music competition in Volos, Greece, together with the flautist Daniela Lahner in 2006.

Donka Angatscheva was selected as the face for Steinway's advertising campaign in Austria. In addition, she has also been an active member of Yehudi Menuhin's organization Live Music Now. In 2002, she recorded her first solo CD with works by Frédéric Chopin for the French company Global Private Equity, which was presented in Paris and later by the Austrian 'Radio Stephansdom'. She performs many concerts with her Trio D'Ante, and the ensemble played in the Vienna Musikverein in April 2006 and October 2010. In November 2006, she performed with the trio in Ecuador and held a piano master class at the 'Conservatorio Franz Liszt' in Quito.

In the 2008/09 season, a concert series by Trio D'Ante followed, organized by the Austrian concert agency Jeunesses Musicales. In 2009, Donka Angatscheva and the trio were accepted into Queen Elisabeth College of Music in Brussels, where she studies with the Artemis Quartet.

With the Trio D'Ante, in 2010 she recorded a successful CD with works by Astor Piazzolla and Enrique Arbós for Gramola (Gramola 98873), which was distinguished as 'CD of the Week' by the Austrian radio station Ö1. The same year, the trio held concerts in major musical centres and at renowned festivals, including Fundación Carlos de Amberes, Madrid, Sala Maria Cristina, Málaga, Apolonia Festival, Bulgaria, Kunstzentrum St. Urban, Switzerland, Festival de Radio France et Montpellier with a live recording and European-wide broadcast, Festival de musique de Menton, France, and the Chopin Festival in the Cultural Centre Flagey, Brussels. Currently, the pianist is continuing her chamber music training in the class of Prof. Avedis Kouyoumdjian at Vienna Music University. In the near future, further solo and trio performances are planned in the Mozart Hall of Vienna Konzerthaus as well as at the Festival de Menton in France and in the Grand Hall of the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels.

Her trio concerts in the Vienna Musikverein, in the Old City Hall of Vienna and in the Austrian Parliament, in the Brucknerhaus in Linz and in the Casa de la Musica in Quito have met with a highly positive response on the part of the audience and critics.

Finally, on the occasion of the Liszt Year the pianist with the Trio D'Ante recorded a CD with works for piano trio by Liszt, Chopin, Rachmaninov and Shostakovitch, which will be published after this one.



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'Her truly excellent technical skills, combined with an absolutely natural musicality, have convinced me from the very outset. Her great pianist's energy and her absolutely convincing performance automatically attract the listener's attention. Whoever possesses this gift, deserves my respect.'

(Prof. Gregor Sigl, Artemis Quartett)

'... a very virtuoso and, in terms of sound, always very balanced and fundamentally honest performance on the piano. Moreover, imaginative, true to the text, with spirit and a lot of Romantic feeling, but never in bad taste. Convincing brilliance, a lot of warmly felt emotion. I can sign these interpretations one hundred percent.'

(Prof. Heinz Medjimorec, Vienna)