



Marek Kozák, piano

At the age of twenty-nine, the piano virtuoso Marek Kozák has achieved a series of impressive results in a wide range of prestigious competitions. His most recent honour in 2021 is the laureate title in the highly demanding Concours Géza Anda Zürich. In 2015, Marek was a semifinalist in one of the world leading contests, The Fryderyk Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw. The following year, he gained second prize at the Prague Spring International Music Competition and special award for his performance of the contemporary composition “The Jongleur” by Adam Skoumal on top. In 2018, he won both first prize and the audience prize at the European Piano Competition in Bremen.

Critics consistently praise his flawless technique, sense of proportion and gradation, wide range of expression, deep musicality and faithfulness to musical notation.

Since, Marek Kozák has certainly made a splash on the Czech music scene. In February 2020, his first performance with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra caused a stir when he played the little known *Piano Concerto in D minor* by Vítězslava Kaprálová. Since then he had performed and also recorded other two lesser-known Czech piano concertos by Karel Kovařovic and Pavel Bořkovec – a clear proof that in addition to world-famous piano literature, he enjoys discovering lesser-played pieces. „As interpreted by Marek Kozák, this piano concerto by K. Kovařovic can be considered one of the masterpieces of the Czech concertante piano literature“.(P. Kohout, Harmonie Music Magazine).

In February 2023 Marek triumphed with solo recital at Rudolfinum concert hall with Bach (French suite G major BWV 816), Chopin (Rondo alla Mazurka F major op. 5, Barkarola, Scherzo), Tchaikowski (Six piano pieces op. 19) and Prokofiev (Sonata n. 2 d minor op. 14) on the repertoire.

In the 2022-23 season, next to giving numerous recitals in the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Germany, he will perform the piano concertos by K. Kovařovic, R. Schumann, and R. Strauss’s Burlesque among others. He will also return to The Smetana’s Litomyšl, the second oldest Czech festival, with The Well-Tempered Clavier I. in June 2023.

Marek Kozák showed extraordinary talent for both organ and piano since childhood and studied two instruments at the Janáček Conservatory in Ostrava. He finally decided for piano and graduated at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in class of Prof. Ivan Klánský. He attended numerous masterclasses led by world-famous virtuosos, such as Eugen Indjic, Murray Parahia and Garrick Ohlsson.

In 2018, he released his first signature CD with the works of Haydn, Chopin, Franck, Rachmaninoff and Skoumal.

In addition to concert activities, Marek teaches at the Prague Music High School.

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