



Elena Kuschnerova

PIANO



Elena Kuschnerova was the last pianistic discovery of Harold Schonberg (1915-2003), music critic for the New York Times and prolific author on great performers. After listening to her debut CD, he dubbed her a **"Pianist who grabs the imagination"**, and he lauded her Scriabin CD as **"the best recorded performances I am familiar with"** (American Record Guide, 2000 and 2001).

Earlier, Kuschnerova's Prokofiev CD (1997) had been awarded the prestigious "German Record Critics' Award (Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik)". A year later it was included on a list of the **50 best "Desert Island" piano recordings of all time** by the German music magazine SCALA.

In its 70-year history, the Penguin Guide, the world's most venerated source of classical reviews, has bestowed fewer than two dozen Rosettes on piano recordings, a distinction that eluded many of history's most famous pianists. The most recent of these was awarded to Elena Kuschnerova's all-Bach Recital (2001) in the Penguin Guide's 2003/04 issue. The team of Penguin reviewers admonished readers to **"make no mistake, this disc... is altogether outstanding. Indeed it is one of the finest Bach recitals on the piano... the present recital leaves the listener feeling exhilarated and purified as only the best Bach playing can."**

Born into a musical family, Elena Kuschnerova started her pianistic education when she was 5, playing her first concerto with orchestra at the age of 9 (The f minor concerto by Bach under the baton of Emin Khachaturyan, recorded by Moscow Radio). She excelled at the elite Moscow Central Music School where she studied with Tatiana Kestner, also the teacher of Andrei Gavrilov and Nikolai Lugansky,

Later she studied at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with Sergei Dorensky. Elena Kuschnerova was influenced by the great and controversial Russian composer Alexander Lazarevich Lokshin (1920-1987), who wrote a variation cycle for her (1982).

After graduating with an honors diploma, she spent eight years touring all over the Soviet Union, with occasional forays into Western Europe.

Moving to Germany in 1992 gave a push to Elena Kuschnerova's career. Her recitals and CDs encompass an enormous range, from Bach to first performances of works composed for her, and have brought her international acclaim. Elena Kuschnerova has concertized with a number of orchestras, in addition to expressing her deep love for chamber music on the concert stage.

Elena Kuschnerova played at many important Festivals such as the Gustav Mahler Music Festival in Toblach, the Bach Festival in Ansbach, the Festival of Rarities of the Piano Music in Husum, Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, Clef de Soleil in Lille, etc. In 2002, Elena Kuschnerova premiered a piano concerto written for her by Siegfried Matthus at the Dresden Festival together with Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Marek Janowski. She has performed this work many times since then, including a performance with the RSO Berlin under Michail Jurowski.

Elena Kuschnerova has been conducting concert tours in Japan for many years. A CD with live recording of her 2003 Tokyo recital was released by Steinway Japan. Elena Kuschnerova's new Stravinsky and Brahms CDs have been released in spring 2005 and the latter has received the Supersonic Award from the music magazin Pizzicato. Currently Elena Kuschnerova is recording "Seven Romantic Ballades" composed for her by the Russian composer Mikhail Kollontay.

Elena Kuschnerova is also internationally recognized as a piano professor, giving master classes in Germany, Japan, Korea, Sweden, and the USA. Since May 2006 she has been guest professor at the Elisabeth University of Music in Hiroshima.

Elena Kuschnerova has been a Steinway Artist since 2002.

*"In short, a pianist who
grabs the imagination"*

Harold Schonberg, American Record Guide





Elena Kuschnerova

Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Prokofiev
Recorded in the Grand Hall of Moscow Conservatory
Released 1996 by Bella Musica
"Pianist who grabs the imagination" –
Harold Schonberg in American Record Guide



Sergei Prokofiev

Romeo & Julia, Sonata No.2
Recorded by SWR Baden-Baden
Released 1997 by Ars Musici
German Record Critics' Award



Alexander Scriabin

Etudes Op.8, Préludes Op.11
Recorded by SWR Baden-Baden
Released 2000 by Ars Musici
"These are the best recorded performances I am familiar with" Harold Schonberg in American Record Guide



Johann Sebastian Bach

Released 2001 by ORFEO
Live recording by SWR Baden-Baden 2000
"The present recital leaves the listener feeling exhilarated and purified as only the best Bach playing can"
Penguin Guide 2003/2004



Modest Mussorgsky

(all original piano pieces by Mussorgsky)
Recorded by Bavarian Radio, Munich
Released 2002 by ORFEO.
"A beautiful pleading for the Lyricist and Storyteller Mussorgsky" – Stereoplay



Elena Kuschnerova Live in Tokyo

Scarlatti, Debussy, Ravel, Prokofiev
Released 2002 by Steinway Japan



Igor Stravinsky Piano pieces

Recorded by SWR Baden-Baden
Released 2005 by Ars Produktion



Johannes Brahms Op. 116-119

Recorded by Bavarian Radio, Munich
Released 2005 by Ars Produktion
Supersonic Award from Pizzicato, Luxembourg



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