

## Luiza Borac, piano

***Pianist Luiza Borac is the most dedicated champion of music from her native Romania. She was recognised with a BBC Music Magazine Award for her artistry and advocacy of the piano canon of Georges Enescu***

BBC Award-winning pianist Luiza Borac has been described as a “mercurial and insightful pianist” with “great richness of nuances”.

Winner of over 50 international prizes and distinctions Luiza Borac has been described as „most poetic artist“ by the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (Joachim Kaiser), an „ever-resourceful and imaginative pianist“ (Gramophone) and a “formidable interpreter” (San Francisco Chronicle). She has won top prizes at the Edvard Grieg International Piano Competition where she was awarded also Prix d’Oslo, Special Prize for Grieg’s Lyrical Pieces and the Audience Prize, Mendelssohn Berlin Piano Competition, George Enescu International Piano Competition, Gina Bachauer in Salt Lake City, Viotti-Valsesia Italy, Gheorghe Dima, Sigismund Toduta Romanian National Piano Competitions, Taormina International Piano Competition a.o.

She performed and recorded to international acclaim world premieres by Robert Schumann (“sensational discovery“ *Die Welt*), George Enescu (Piano Concerto and Phantasy), Dinu Lipatti (complete piano works), Marcel Mihalovici, György Kurtàg and Constantin Silvestri (complete piano works).

A pianist performer, presenter, producer, chamber music and vocal collaborator, musicologist, and mentor, Luiza has played Solo Recitals and as a Soloist with Orchestras in Germany, Great Britain, Romania, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Moldavia, Czech Republic, China, France, Spain and the USA. A former young artist of the Holland Music Sessions and Salzburg International Summer Academy Borac won over 50 Prizes and Distinctions. She was the First Prize Winner of the Edvard Grieg International Piano Competition where she was awarded also Prix d’Oslo, Special Prize for Grieg’s Lyrical Piece and the Audience Prize, First Prize Winner of Mendelssohn Berlin Piano Competition, Second Prize-Winner and Silver Medal at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition in Salt Lake City, First Prize-Winner of both Gheorghe Dima and Sigismund Toduta Romanian National Piano Competitions, 2nd Prize of Taormina International Piano Competition (President Lazar Berman) Special Awards of Mozarteum Salzburg, Richard Wagner Bayreuth, Havergal Glasgow, Leeds, Masala, Tomassoni Cologne, and many more. Luiza Borac’s world premiere recordings of her great compatriot George Enescu – the complete solo piano music for Avie Records and the newly discovered Piano Concerto for Profil Hänssler – were greeted as “ground-breaking discoveries” by the international music press, being amongst the first recordings to bring Enescu’s works to wider prominence. They were internationally highly acclaimed for Luiza’s idiomatic performances: “excellent playing” (Gramophone); “formidable interpreter” (San Francisco Chronicle); “best performance” (BBC Music Magazine). Her latest Album 2021 with the worldpremieres by George Enescu (Piano Concerto) Constantin Silvestri (complete piano works), and György Kurtàg won 2 Nominations – for ICMA International Classical Music Awards, in the Category “Assorted Programms” and for Opus Klassik in the Category “Instrumentalist of the Year”. As a promoter of the female artists Luiza Roxana Borac dedicated a unique and highly acclaimed European Tournee (2016) to Alice Herz-Sommer, the world’s oldest pianist whom she personally met, and to Clara Schumann for her 200th anniversary (2019). Luiza met Alice Herz-Sommer in London during her recording of the 24 Chopin Etudes. Her interview by Evan Dickerson was featured in the Portfolio of the Oscarwinning Film “The Lady at Number 6”. Being one of the first recipients of the Dorothea-Erxleben Award (named after the first woman licensed to practice medicine in the world) Borac premiered, recorded, and performed in concerts a large number of works written by female composers. The only ever pianist to have recorded the complete piano music by the 3 most important Romanian composers George Enescu, Dinu Lipatti and Constantin Silvestri Borac has been described as “the greatest living exponent of her compatriot’s – George Enescu – endlessly revelatory piano music”. Borac recorded a large number of CDs for various labels (Avie Records, Profil Hänssler, ambitus, Danacord, cpo and Polygram), each of them to international acclaim. Her recordings include Piano Concertos by Robert Schumann, Frédéric Chopin, Edvard Grieg, George Enescu and Dinu Lipatti – together with the Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields – , Chopin’s 24 Etudes, Debussy’s 12 Etudes, Ravel’s Gaspard de la Nuit and La Valse, Schubert’s Wanderer Phantasy and Liszt *Années des Pèlèrinage*, works by Mozart, Bizet, Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Kreisler-Rachmaninoff, Mihalovici, Franck, Debussy, Ravel, Enescu, Lipatti, Silvestri, Tárrega, Kurtàg and Janacek. As International Record Review notes, “Borac is one of the most compelling pianists of today”. Her recordings won the BBC Music Award, Nominations ICMA International Classical Music Awards and Opus Klassik and were selected as Joker Decouverte at Crescendo, ‘Star of the Month’ Fono Forum, Outstanding at International Record Review, ‘CD of the 2 Months’ Piano News, ‘CD of the Month’ International Piano, ‘CD of the Day’ Radio Frankfurt, 5 Stars of BBC Music Magazine, Pizzicato, International Piano, Straits Times and Radio Berlin-Brandenburg, ‘CD of the Year’ Radio Bucharest, 4 Stars The Times, Norman Lebrecht’s *Sinfini* CD of the Week, ‘Le Disque de Jour’ Artamag etc. For her recordings and research of George Enescu’s music Luiza Borac was awarded a BBC Music Award and a summa cum laude for her doctoral thesis dedicated to the piano music of George Enescu, Diploma of Honor of the Romanian Embassy in Berlin for bringing Romanian Culture to the World, the Romanian Radio Cultural Music Award, the Diploma of Prometheus Award and the Actualitatea Muzicala Award for promoting Romanian music worldwide. As an “ever resourceful and imaginative pianist” and “charming presenter” she generated and performed 3 world premiere concert tours with around 50 concerts dedicated to the pianists Dinu Lipatti (2017 for his 100th anniversary), Alice Herz-Sommer (2016), and to

Clara Schumann (for her 200th anniversary) to international acclaim. Highly praised by the press the tours were unique in their form, where, apart from performing Luiza did the extensive pre-concert talks, wrote her own program notes, and organized related photo exhibitions. As a producer on her acclaimed Album Chants nostalgiques Borac has created an unprecedented experiment by juxtaposing historical recordings of legendary tenor Ion Buzea, Winner of George Enescu 1958 International Competition, with her own playing captured through modern technology ("a veritable tour de force" Gramophone) A true visionary in building cultural bridges and making classical music more accessible to the wider public especially to young audiences Borac held piano conferences all around the world in highly successful programs like "Music-in-our-School" at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition – USA's 2nd largest Piano Competition – of which Luiza was a recipient of the Silver Medal. "Her playing is of magnificent bravura and finesse". "Pianist of the Month at Saint-Martin-in-the Fields" and the first ever female Romanian pianist to perform at the famous Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles Borac won a Carnegie Hall Debut Prize and has since appeared in some of the most prestigious concert halls around the world, including Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Cologne Philharmonie, Bing Theater Los Angeles, Abravanel Hall Salt Lake City, Konzerthus Stockholm, Barbican Centre London, Bozar Brussels, Palais Palfy Vienna, NDR Hamburg, NDR Hannover, Liederhalle Stuttgart. In her Solo recitals Borac presents milestones of the piano literature like Bach's Goldberg Variations, Chopin's 24 Etudes, 4 Ballades, 28 Preludes, Liszt's 12 Transcendental Etudes, Concert, Lieder Transcriptions and Opera Paraphrases, Debussy's 12 Preludes and 24 Preludes, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Rachmaninov, Schubert and Prokofiev all Sonatas, coupled with music by modern and contemporary composers like Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Erik Satie, Leopold Godowski, Ernő von Dohnányi, William Walton, Alfred Schnittke, George Enescu, Dinu Lipatti, György Kurtág, Violeta Dinescu, Tatjana Komarova, Constantin Silvestri, Marcel Mihalovici, Valentin Gheorghiu. Luiza Borac is a Steinway Artist since 1998 and has been included on Steinway Wall of Fame.

2021-2022 she performed Bach's Goldberg Variations in a special Covid-safe collaboration with Steinway in concerts for live and online audiences.

2023 Ms. Borac made her debut with the Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig with Rachmaninov 3rd Piano Concerto in a multiple performances series. Also in 2023 her most recent Album with music by Grieg and Enescu won 2 nominations - for International Classical Music Awards and for Opus Klassik Awards.

Luiza Borac is Artistic Director of the György Kurtág International Music Competition.

"A social force with a healing vision" (Fanfare USA), Luiza Borac works with various internationally recognised charities. Such projects included Music in Our Schools, run by the Bachauer Foundation, the MENORAH project for the Jewish victims of Schaumburg-Lippe in North Germany, Romanian charity projects in Great Britain and Germany that supports orphans and street children in the artist's native country. In 2017 the UNESCO city of Albi has awarded her the honorific title of "Ambassadrice de la Cité épiscopale" and also its Medal of Honor in recognition of her involvement in PolioPlus, an international project run by Rotary with the aim of eradicating polio. In spring 2018 she received the Paul Harris Medal and the Rotary Honorary Distinction. In demand as a soloist worldwide, Borac has performed to great critical acclaim with the Philharmonie Festiva, Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, Moscow Symphony Orchestra, Utah Philharmonic Orchestra, West German Radio Orchestra WDR, North German Radio Orchestra NDR, Bucharest Radio Orchestra ONR, George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, Iasi, Bacau, Arad, Sibiu, Valcea, Craiova, Pitesti, Temeswar, Cluj Philharmonic Orchestras, Kishinau Chamber Orchestra, among others. Conductors she worked with include Peter Ruzicka, Vladimir Jurowski, Gerd Schaller, Jaime Martin, Cristian Măcelaru, Ka-Chun Wong, Theo Wolters, Laurent Couson, Rossen Gergov, Horia Andreescu, Toshiyuki Kamioka, Tetsuji Honna, a.o. She made successful appearances at the Aldeburgh Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, George Enescu Festival, Michelangeli Piano Festival, Prokofiev Barbican Festival a.o. In 2014 Luiza Borac attained her doctorate following research into the piano works of George Enescu and she graduated in musicology from the National University of Music in Bucharest with the highest distinction summa cum laude. As a young artist in residence of the London Symphony Orchestra Borac has been mentored by Radu Lupu, Murray Perahia and Jan Ekier. After her Debut at the George Enescu Philharmonic with Rachmaninov Piano Concerto Nr. 2 at the the age of 17 Luiza Borac graduated from the Bucharest and Hanover College of Music with the highest distinctions and pursued masterclasses at the Julliard School of Music New York and Como International Piano Foundation under artistic director Martha Argerich, where she studied with KarlUlrich Schnabel, Leon Fleisher, Dmitri Bashkirov, William Grant Naborè and Fou Ts'ong, and who all described her as "a pianist of magnificent potential". Borac has served on many juries of major piano competitions like Gina Bachauer USA, Walter Gieseking Hannover and Beijing, San Nicola di Bari, Massarossa, Ennio Porrino Cagliari, taught at the Hanover and Mozarteum Salzburg Academies of Music, and masterclasses in Holland, France, Italy and Romania. Her students won prestigious piano competitions and embraced musical careers as highly successful concert pianists, chamber musicians and lied accompanists. Combining "grandezza and passion of a real Virtuoso" with an exquisite poetical flair and depth "Luiza Borac's empathetic interpretations are themselves a revelation" and a perpetual source of love and inspiration for the audiences all over the world.