

# BRITTA MEISSNER

THE TOUR COMPANY

## **Ivo POGORELICH** | piano

Ivo Pogorelich was born in Belgrade in 1958 as son of a musician. He received his first piano lessons at the age of seven and went to Moscow at the age of twelve to study at the Central Special Music School and then at the Tchaikowsky Conservatory. In 1976 he began intensive studies with the renowned pianist and teacher Aliza Kezeradze, with whom he was married from 1980 until her untimely death in 1996. Mme. Kezeradze was able to transmit the spirit and matter of the school of Beethoven and Liszt, originated in Vienna and then carried through to the Conservatory of St. Petersburg, flourishing towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Century. Ivo Pogorelich won the first prize at the Alessandro Casagrande Competition at Terni (Italy) in 1978 and the first prize at the Montreal International Music Competition in 1980. In October of the same year he entered the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw where, when prevented from participating in the final contest as a soloist with the orchestra, a fierce controversy resulted in the renowned argentinian pianist Martha Argerich, a member of the jury, protesting and leaving the competition, joined by other members of the jury panel, with the words "He is a genius". This event drew the attention of the whole musical world to the young pianist.

Ever since his debut recital in New York's Carnegie Hall in 1981, Ivo Pogorelich has created a sensation with his performances in all the great concert halls throughout the world; starting in the U.S. and followed by performances on all four continents. He has received invitations to play with numerous major orchestras such as the Berlin, and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras, all the London Orchestras, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Los Angeles, New York Philharmonic Orchestras of the U.S. and major orchestras elsewhere. Wherever and whenever he plays, his stunning interpretations of the music confirm the originality of his talent and intellect. The New York Times once wrote "He played each note exactly, with such a feeling, such expression, he was an entire orchestra— it was as if he played 200 years ahead of our time". In this spirit Ivo Pogorelich is known today as a poet of the instrument.

In the recent season 2014/2015 Ivo Pogorelich has given triumphal recitals and concerts in Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Great Britain, Lithuania, Croatia, Spain, Turkey, Japan as well as in China. In 2015/16, Ivo Pogorelich will appear in Warsaw, Dubrovnik, Montreux, Oxford, Cologne, Stuttgart, Munich, Paris and other major European cities. In addition the Maestro is planning to work on a new recording.

Besides his extensive concert performances, Ivo Pogorelich offers a lot to the community by supporting young musicians. In 1986 he established a foundation in Croatia to raise funds for scholarships for young artists to further their studies abroad. At the German spa town of Bad Wörishofen, Ivo Pogorelich created a festival, which went on for a decade, with the aim of supporting promising young musicians at the very beginning of their careers by giving them the opportunity of performing in company with their wellknown colleagues. In 1993 the Ivo Pogorelich Piano Competition was held in the Californian city of Pasadena. A biannual performance is offered in the city of Lugano, where Ivo Pogorelich lives, with the aim of promoting and helping young musicians .

In 1994, the pianist set up a foundation in Sarajevo to raise money to rebuild a maternity hospital in the city. Ivo Pogorelich gives charity concerts in support of, for example the Red Cross or the fight against illnesses, such as cancer and multiple sclerosis, among other projects. One of such is to offer his advice to young artists by occasionally giving masterclasses. In 1987 he received the honour of being named an "Ambassador of Goodwill" by UNESCO.

Ivo Pogorelich has recorded an impressive number of CD's with Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft, with a repertory ranging from Barock to Classic, to Romantic and the music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The cumulative effect of this recorded material has confirmed his status which many see as being legendary. In March 2015 Deutsche Grammophon has released a single box set *Pogorelich Complete Recordings* with 14 extraordinary albums which has been awarded with the French *Diapason d'Or*.

Season 2015/2016