

# GENOVA & DIMITROV

PIANO DUO

2 PIANOS & 1 PIANO FOURHANDS



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Genova and Dimitrov is one of the most internationally sought-after piano duos today. Already as a two-months-young ensemble, the today's *ECHO CLASSIC* awardees caused a real sensation by winning the Grand Slam of piano duo competitions within only two years, namely the «ARD» (Munich), «Dranoff» (Miami), Tokyo (Japan) and «Bellini» (Sicily) competitions, a feat that has not been matched to this day.

Since then, Aglika Genova and Liuben Dimitrov have been celebrated by audiences and the press, performing on the most important concert and festival stages in numerous countries on all continents, such as the Library of Congress and the National Gallery in Washington, the Schleswig-Holstein, Rheingau, Ludwigsburg and Schwetzingen Festivals, the City Hall in Cape Town, the Herkulesaal Munich, the Liederhalle Stuttgart, the Gstaad Music Festival, MDR Music Summer, at the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Beethovenhalle Bonn, the Cologne Philharmonic Hall, the Passau European Music Weeks, the Varna Summer Festival, Sofia Music Weeks, and the March Music days Russe, the La Roque d'Antheron and the Al Bustan Music Festival Beirut, Casals Hall Tokyo, Poly Theatre Beijing, and the Teatro Municipal Rio de Janeiro, as well as at the Ravello Festival, the Woodstock Mozart Festival, the Festival Miami and the Chopin Piano Festival Duszyniki, just to mention a few.

Upon the invitation of the Olympic Committee, the duo appeared at the opening concerts for the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, and at the 2010 Volleyball World Championships in Trieste. Their concerts could be enjoyed at the 2000 EXPO in Hanover, at the opening concert of the 2010 Paderewski Piano Competition in Poland, and in 2013 at the musical inauguration of Bacardi's America Headquarters in Miami. In the same year Genova & Dimitrov appeared at the WDR Cologne Radio Day «1913-2013» and were celebrated on board of the new luxury cruise liner «Europe 2» on the way to Dubai within the framework of its opening season. 2014 they were Artists in Residence and Mentors of the International Festival Sommets Musicaux in Gstaad. In addition, they have appeared in numerous international TV and radio broadcasts. The portrayal TV documentary movie about the Duo «Etude for Two Pianos» which has been produced and broadcasted by the BNT Bulgarian National Television, enjoys worldwide greatest interest.

Under the direction of conductors such as Eiji Oue, Ari Rasilainen, Hannu Lintu, Stefan Blunier, Yuri Bashmet, John Carewe, Emil Tabakov, Ulf Schirmer, Alun Francis, Yordan Kamdzhlov, Robin Gritton, Alexander Kalajdzic, Gabriel Feltz, Alexander Rudin, Andreas Herrmann, and Johannes Schlaefli, Genova & Dimitrov have played worldwide with leading orchestras and choirs, for example in Munich, Los Angeles, Miami, Hamburg, Johannesburg, Durban, Hanover, Bonn, Beijing, Stuttgart, Cape Town, Sofia, Kiev, and Bucharest.

Among the season's highlights are the release of the new CD with the BNR Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Genesis Orchestra led by Yordan Kamdzhlov («cpo Records»); numerous recitals and concerts with orchestra in Europe, Asia, America and Africa; studio recordings of the new recital CD project at WDR Radio Cologne; the Master Courses at Cloister Michaelstein (Germany) and at ISA «Allegra» in Russe (Bulgaria).

Aglika Genova and Liuben Dimitrov can look back at an impressive discography - 14 CDs of the duo have been released by «cpo Records» and «Gega New», and given glowing reviews and top ratings by international record magazines and radio stations.

In 2017 the Artists have been awarded the *ECHO CLASSIC* Prize for their CD «Bela Bartok & Victor Babin – Concertos for Two Pianos» with the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra led by Yordan Kamdzhlov («cpo Records»). The same CD has been nominated also for the *German Record Critics' Award*. In addition to a number of world premiere recordings, such as Victor Babin's Concerto, the complete piano duo works of Dmitri Shostakovich, Johann Christian Bach, Muzio Clementi, and Pantcho Vladigerov, recordings such as «America for Two» (Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein) and «Maurice Ravel - Favourite Flavors» are greatly appreciated worldwide. A particular emphasis in their discography are the recordings with orchestra «Martinu and Schnittke - Concertos for 2 pianos» (NDR Radio Philharmonic/Eiji Oue), «French Concertos - Milhaud, Poulenc, Casadesu» (SWR Radio Orchestra/Alun Francis) and «Mendelssohn - Concertos for Two Pianos № 1 & 2» (Munich Radio Orchestra/Ulf Schirmer). The CD «Arensky - Five Suites for Two Pianos», which the Artists dedicated to the memory of their teacher Vladimir Krainev, was designated by the media worldwide even as «trend-setting». The CD «Franz Liszt - Works for 2 Pianos» was praised by the international press as «A pure celebration of the 2 piano music, a celebration of Liszt's music». In occasion of the Duo's 20th birthday anniversary in 2015 «cpo» has released the Special Edition CD «Genova & Dimitrov - 20 Years», which has caused furore among the radios around the world.

Genova and Dimitrov serve regularly as jurors of significant international piano solo and duo competitions, such as the «ARD» Competition in Munich, at the Almaty Piano Competition, the «Franz Schubert» Competition in Russe, and were appointed in 2010 Artistic Directors of the «Dranoff» International Two Piano Competition in Miami.

The artists give master classes worldwide, as e.g. the annual Piano Duo & Solo Academy in Cloister Michaelstein (Germany) in January, as well as the ISA «Allegra» Summer Academy for Piano Solo & Duo, in Russe (Bulgaria). Since 2009, they have been appointed Heads of Piano Duo Studies at the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media. In 2011 they established the piano duo forum «Twin Pack Piano».

The similarities between them reach far into their past: Aglika Genova and Liuben Dimitrov, both of Bulgarian-Greek descent, both began piano lessons at the age of five, and as 9-year-olds, both had their first public appearances as soloists with orchestra. During their piano solo training at special music high schools for highly talented youngsters, and then at the Sofia Conservatory with Julia and Konstantin Ganev each won multiple prizes at international competitions. Following the personal invitation from their mentor, the legendary pianist Vladimir Krainev, they finished their post-graduate studies in his class at the Hanover University of Music.

*«One afternoon, shortly before leaving for a solo piano competition in Seoul, Korea, there was only one available rehearsal room at the Hanover University of Music and it was with two pianos. We spontaneously decided to start to play Chopin's Etude 25/11 in sync. It was as if we had been given wings. Only few months later we had won our first competition prize as a duo»,* remember Aglika and Liuben.

Today the Artists live in Hanover, Miami, and Sofia.