

Plamena Nikitassova

Plamena Nikitassova was born in Varna (Bulgaria). At sixteen years old, she won a music scholarship that she spent in Switzerland. She then studied classical violin with M. Karafilova Piguet at the music high school of Geneva and with Prof. M. Frischenschlager at the music high school of Vienna. She obtained her teaching and soloist diploma in 1999 in Geneva, with distinction, and then played in concerts within the romantic repertoire. She performed as a soloist and chamber musician at festivals in Leipzig, Berlin, Brussels, Amsterdam, Innsbruck and Paris.

In 1999, she was honoured with the coveted "Leenhards Foundation" award in Lausanne.

After meeting the organist Michael Radulescu (Vienna) and the violinist Jaap Schröder (Amsterdam), Nikitassova turned to old music and started studies in renaissance and baroque violin with Chiara Banchini at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, which she completed in 2005. Since then, concerts and recordings have been leading her to the scenes and podiums of the largest metropolises in Europe.

As a duo partner, she performs concerts with the organist and harpsichordist Jörg-Andreas Bötticher and the French harpsichordist and pianist Aline Zylberajch. Her CD recordings, with "Violin sonatas by C. Zuccari", Panclassics 2012 (Diapason d'Or Découverte), "Violin sonatas by Gaspard Fritz 1747", Panclassics 2014, as well as "Violin sonatas by L. v. Beethoven, M. Ravel, C. Debussy", Gallus Media 2014, were highly praised by the public and the press.

Recently, "The Violin's Delight - a garden of pleasure" was published, the most recent CD of the violinist, with a virtuoso violin repertoire from the 17th century, which reflects her particular interest in the – nowadays too little practised – historical way of playing the violin (the so-called "low hold" of the instrument, which rests on the chest). Many new facets of the sound and expression palette are thus enabled, expressly supported and emphasised by the "thumb under" grip of the bow (thumb on the bow hair surface).

As concert master, Plamena Nikitassova played from 2013 to 2017 with the orchestra of the "J.S. Bach Foundation", St. Gallen under the direction of R. Lutz, with whom she recorded over fifty cantatas by J.S. Bach. As of 2018, she will also be directing various ensembles in France and Germany, amongst others the Freiburger Barockorchester.

Nikitassova relates to Eastern European folk music, which can express joy of life as well as melancholy, with passion, due to the connection with her own roots. She is also committed to the chamber music of the 20th century, which also belongs to the violinist's repertoire focuses, alongside the works of the old classic and romantic styles.

She plays on a violin of original scale by Sebastian Klotz (Mittenwald approx. 1730) and one in a modern state by Pierre Dalphin (Geneva 1992).

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