

NEW CLASSIC DUO

«... Konstantin Manaev and Julia Smirnova are musically an equally homogeneous music-making as well as excitingly thrilling duo. ... That made the evening a fascinating experience!»

Hessian daily newspaper

«... This musicians showed how well they harmonize right at the start with a duet by Giovanni Battista Cirri from the 18th century. ... After another common arc of tension between present and baroque, the exciting concert ended after extensive applause with a Paganini solo by Julia Smirnova as an encore and gift to the audience.»

Westphalian news

Violinist **JULIA SMIRNOVA**, born in Komsomolsk-on-Amur / Russia in 1997, began her studies at the Hanns Eisler School of Music in Berlin in 2017, first with Prof. Antje Weithaas and since 2019 with Professor Stephan Picard. Julia received important musical impulses through international master classes, among others with Thomas Zehetmair, Maxim Vengerov, Michaela Martin, Ingolf Turban, Natalia Prischepenko, Grigory Kalinovsky, Yu Yamei, as well as in collaboration with Frans Helmerson and Nabuko Imai. In summer 2021 she participated in the master classes of Kronberg Academy with Professor Pavel Vernikov.

She has been a guest at numerous festivals, including the California International Music Festival in Engers, Germany, the Randspiele and Klangwerkstatt Festivals in Berlin, the Diaghilev Festival in Perm, Russia, the Encuentro de Musica y Academia in Santander, Spain, the Arosa Festival in Switzerland. Julia Smirnova won 1st prize at the VIII. national string competition in Tver, Russia (2013) and at the "International Masur" violin competition in St. Petersburg (2015).

Since 2015, Julia has been on tour with the "musicAeterna" orchestra in Europe and the USA by an invitation of conductor Teodor Currentzis. Concerts have taken place in the Auditorio Nacional Madrid, Teatro Alla Scala Milano, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Konzerthaus Wien, Berliner Philharmonie, Mariinsky Theater St. and the Ruhrtrienale festival in Bochum.

Since 2018 she is a scholarship holder of the association Yehudi Menuhin - "Live Music Now" in Berlin.

In 2021 Julia Smirnova received the DAAD Prize as a best foreign student at the Hanns Eisler School of Music in Berlin. The prize is awarded for outstanding artistic achievements as well as special social or intercultural commitment.

Julia Smirnova plays a violin by Antonio Gagnani from 1790.

Konstantin Manaev began learning Cello with 1. Suite of J. S. Bach. When he was six years old, his mother, a pianist, played him the piano prelude from 1. Suite of Bach and he felt totally electrified and wanted to repeat the melody immediately. But his mother argued: «Kostjuscha,

if you like to play this, you must learn to play cello, because Bach composed the piece for cello, not for piano.» Within a week he had a small 1/8 cello and began practicing Bach.

Three years later, Konstantin Manaev played at the „New Names“ concert in Japan. From that moment on he was sure he would become a cellist. «Since that time, music has been my faith and my religion.»

In 2016, Konstantin Manaev experienced another remarkable event with Bach's Suite no. 1: After the concert for the commemoration of the murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel asked Manaev for this special work as an encore – much to the pleasure of the attending audience.

Born in Yekaterinburg, Russia, Konstantin Manaev began his studies at the Special- Music-School at the Moscow Conservatory under Kyrill Rodin and later at Carl Maria von Weber Conservatory in Dresden at Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt, and at the Academy of Music in Basel at Ivan Monighetti, who played a large part in promoting his musical individuality and force of interpretation.

Konstantin Manaev inspires his audience worldwide and has earned much praise for his concerts in New York, Los Angeles, Moscow, Paris, Berlin, Zurich, Vienna, Milan, St. Petersburg and Tokyo. He made his orchestra debut at the Berlin Philharmonie with Berliner Camerata in 2014. His debut at Tonhalle Zurich with the Luzerner Sinfonieorchester was in 2011.

Partners in Chamber music are e.g.: Benjamin Kim, Danae Dörken, Sol Gabetta, François Benda, Bruno Giuranna, Misha Maisky, Yury Revich, Radovan Vlatkovic, SIGNUM saxophone quartet, as well as composers such as Sofia Gubaidulina and Franghiz Ali-Zadeh. Konstantin Manaev's concert repertoire ranges from early baroque up to modern works. Many modern composers dedicate him new works: Johanna Doderer, Alexandra Filonenko, Aziza Sadikova, Alexey Sioumak and Gordon Hamilton.

Two special recordings from the label GWK Records give evidence of his versatility: «Three Cello-Concertos from Philipp Emanuel Bach, accompanied by the Camerata Berlin, are breath-taking events. [...] Remote from all historic arrangements, far from every convention, with his instrument the cellist unchains a degree of freedom, which is seldom heard! Sensitive whispering pianissimi, fascinating lyricism, deep grumbling basses, dizzying rollercoaster rides: Manaev is a sovereign master of his instrument and able to call from it all possibilities of virtuosity, impulsiveness, intensity and lyrical smoothness. Manaev's C. P. E. Bach, ideal assisted by the Camerata Berlin, lives by never diminishing *espressivo*.»
Remy Franck | Pizzicato, Luxemburg.

Konstantin Manaev has played compositions by Azerbaijan composer Frangis Ali-Sade, as first-recording „Counteractions (Yanar Dağ) for violoncello and accordion“ as well as «Oyan! for violoncello solo». Both CDs have been discussed in the European press, e.g. Klassik heute (DE), The Strad Magazin (UK), Anaclase Magazin (FR) and Pizzicato (LU), Melomano Magazin (SP) as „outstanding records“.

He plays one Cello of Johannes Theodorus Cuypers (1762) and one modern Instrument of Yury Pochekin.

Important Stations: Festival Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Piatigorsky Festival in Los Angeles, Viana do Castelo Music Festival in Porto, Viva Cello Festival in Basel, Kanonji Music Festival in Takamatsu, Beethovenfest in Bonn, ZDF New Year Concert 2017 on Brandenburger Gate in Berlin, Semper Oper Dresden, Tonhalle Zürich, Berliner Philharmonie, Konzerthaus Berlin, Gürzenich Köln, Gasteig Philharmonie Munich, Laeishalle Hamburg, Auditorio Nacional de Madrid. TV and Radio broadcasts at: Morgenmagazin ZDF, BR-Klassik, ARD, Kulturradio Deutschland, Klassikradio, WDR3, RBB.

www.newclassicduo.com