



Catalina Butcaru

Piano

Catalina Butcaru was born in Constanta, Romania. When she was five years old, Catalina began taking piano lessons at Constanta music school with Victoria Nitu. At the age of eight, Catalina gave her first public concert, which was followed by her first solo concert with orchestra at the age of fourteen. Catalina moved to Bucharest when she was thirteen years old, where she continued her studies at the music school “G. Enescu” with Olga Szel. The renowned Romanian pianists Aurora Ienei and Dan Grigore also encouraged and influenced Catalina’s musical development. First recordings for Romanian radio broadcasting followed.

Already at the age of 16, Catalina Butcaru was accepted at the renowned University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. She gained her Soloist’s diploma under the supervision of Prof. Jürg von Vintschger. Her longstanding work with pianist Meira Farkas gave Catalina vital artistic impulses.

Catalina continued her musical education at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, where she obtained her Master’s degree in 2004 after intensive studies with the acclaimed Russian piano teacher Alexandr Satz. Master courses with renowned musicians, such as Dmitri Bashkirov, Martin Hughes, and Andrzej Jasinski profoundly influenced her artistic development. Catalina Butcaru won several piano competitions in Romania, among them the Golden Lyra competition and the Mozart competition. She is a finalist of the international Steinway Competition in Vienna.

Between 1996 and 2001 Catalina recorded for Austrian television and radio. Her first solo CD was presented in full in Austrian radio.

Catalina Butcaru is a scholar of the “Alban Berg” foundation and the “Maria Theresia” foundation.

Butcarus first Solo CD, recorded at Wigmore Hall in 2008 and released by Divine Art – Diversions, attracted international attention. This recording of works by A. Berg, M. Ravel and R. Schumann was not only critically acclaimed but also presented in full in Austrian radio.

„This is the first disc of the Romanian pianist, Catalina Butcaru and it is nothing short of sensational being, extremely good and, indeed, superlative. These are not just performances but vital experiences [...] And the beauty that Butcaru produces is amazing [...] This is a must have disc. It is the best piano playing I have heard for many years.” writes critic David C Wright about Catalina Bucaru’s first Solo CD.

“...Catalina Butcaru is at one with the music and can stand comparison with the best who have ventured forth into the territory.” (Becker, American Record Guide, 2008)

After an evening of chamber music at the Wiener Konzerthaus, “Der Neue Merker” wrote: “The Romanian pianist is a musical dialogue partner of stupendous maturity, she plays flawlessly with a palette of expression that reaches from sublimity to energetic, powerful allure.”

Performances in the series Musica Juventutis at the Wiener Konzerthaus and at the ORF Radiokulturhaus were followed by invitations to the Philharmonie Luxembourg, the Romanian Atheneum and the Broadcast Concert Hall in Bucharest, the Liszt Center in Raiding, the Muth Hall in Vienna, the Ehrbar Hall in Vienna, Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, the Martinu Hall in Prague, and more.

Many successful projects brought Catalina Butcaru together with musicians like Volkhard Steude, concertmaster of the Vienna Philharmonic, Valentin Erben, cellist of the “Alban Berg” quartet, or with the rising star violinist Emmanuel Tjeknavorian. In 2014, Butcaru, together with the Rumanian flutist Matei Ioachimescu, recorded her new CD „Lumière“ with works of Poulenc, Enescu and Jolivet.

Catalina Butcaru is frequently invited to international music festivals, such as the Chamber Music Festival Reichenau, the Festival Burg Golling in Salzburg, „Klassik im Burghof“ in Klagenfurt, the Classic Azur Chamber Music Festival in southern France and the „Toamna Muzicala Clujeana“ in Romania.

Since 2014 Catalina Butcaru has been regularly invited to perform as a soloist with the Mitteldeutschen Philharmonie, as well as with several orchestras in Romania, such as the National Radio Orchestra in Bucharest, Banatul Philharmonic, etc.

Since 2017 Catalina Butcaru is the artistic manager of the project „Vienna meets Romania“ that consists of concerts and master-classes in Romania with Volkhard Steude and other members of the Vienna Philharmonic.

www.catalinabutcaru.com