

**Konstantin Scherbakov returns to Wigmore Hall on  
26 November for Liszt's arrangement of  
Beethoven's 'Eroica' Symphony, following a new CD  
of Beethoven's *Eroica* Variations**

**Thursday 26 November, 1pm | Wigmore Hall, London | Recital  
Ludwig van Beethoven (arr. Franz Liszt) Symphony No. 3 in E flat  
major Op. 55 'Eroica'**



***"One of the most important  
pianists of today"***  
**Neue Zürcher Zeitung**

***"Scherbakov's keyboard  
facility, his pinpoint  
articulation, his unerring  
sense of rhythmic drive and  
security, his weaving together  
of the many layers and voices  
and his sense of colour and  
phrasing are all a joy to listen  
to"***

**Gramophone Magazine**

...

***"A poised and dignified  
performer [with a] dazzling  
range of colour and technical  
finesse"***

**The Independent**

**OUT NOW: CD of Beethoven's *Eroica* Variations  
NEW CD: (November release) – GODOWSKY Complete Works  
Volume 13 of 15**

Russian-Swiss pianist **Konstantin Scherbakov** returns to **Wigmore Hall** for a lunchtime concert on **26 November** to perform Liszt's arrangement of Beethoven's iconic *Symphony No.3 'Eroica'*. Konstantin Scherbakov is one of the rare pianists on the international stage whose current repertoire includes the complete Liszt-Beethoven Cycle of Symphonies. Described by **Classic CD** as a "**long-life Beethovenian**", the winner of the first Rachmaninov Competition received critical acclaim for his complete set of Beethoven Symphonies on 5 CDs for the Naxos Label,

recorded between 1998 and 2004. His recording of the Ninth Symphony was awarded the prestigious **German Critics' Prize**. This also follows the July release of Beethoven's *Eroica* Variations together with the famous Sonatas '*Pathetique*' and '*Appassionata*' on the TwoPianists label.

Liszt began his piano transcriptions of Beethoven's symphonies in 1838 but it was not until 1863 that he completed the integral cycle, re-writing some of them many times before sending them to be published. These monumental works were added to his concert repertoire and proved to be very lucrative for Liszt, meeting the demands of those who were passionate about Beethoven's 9 Symphonies, but had no access to a symphonic orchestra. Although the Liszt-Beethoven Symphonies are a milestone within piano repertoire, they seldom appear on concert programmes.

***"Scherbakov possesses a muscular, aggressive piano style that recalls the great Ukrainian pianist Sviatoslav Richter."***

M.Bailey

Scherbakov's Wigmore recital will coincide with the autumn release of his latest instalment of the Complete Godowsky Piano Works. Volume 13 will include Six Pieces for Left-hand alone, arrangements of works by **Chopin, Godard, Saint-Saens, Weber, Bizet, Albeniz, and others**. There will follow two further CDs to complete the cycle, Scherbakov's biggest challenge – Godowsky's arrangements of the Chopin Etudes. Scherbakov is the first pianist to record the complete Godowsky Piano Works.

As Scherbakov explains:

"My EMI debut disc was of arrangements of Strauss Waltzes which started my love of transcriptions. This has led to further recordings - the Godowsky complete works and the Liszt arrangements of Beethoven Symphonies. With transcriptions, my focus is on revealing as many voices as possible to make the different strands exist independently of each other. For me, it's not so much about imitating the sound of an orchestra but more about the message of the music. The piano is an instrument, which is uniquely capable of recreating the many voices of an orchestra simultaneously. I see the score like a negative of a black and white image."

Although Scherbakov has focused much energy on promoting lesser-known repertoire, the Siberian-born pianist's career has been guided by a strong relationship with Beethoven's music all his life. His very first public concert was a





performance of Beethoven's 1<sup>st</sup> Piano Concerto at the age of 11 with the orchestra of his native town of Barnaul. Scherbakov also made his debut as a **conductor** with the Milan Orchestra **I Pomeriggi Musicali** in 2002, with works of Beethoven. He has performed Beethoven's Complete Piano Concertos around the world and his repertoire also includes the complete **Beethoven Sonatas**. *In September 2016, Scherbakov with his "Eroica" program will open the **Beethoven Festival** in **Bonn**.*

Since he won the first Rachmaninov competition in 1983, aged 20, his career took off dramatically. He initially developed as a pianist under the Soviet Union and then made his European debut at Asolo Chamber Music Festival, Italy in 1990, where he performed the complete works of Rachmaninov in a cycle of 4 recitals.

His concert activity includes participation in major festivals such as the Lucerne Festival, the Salzburg Festival, the Klavierfestival Ruhr, and the Beethoven Festival in Bonn and he has given solo performances in the most prestigious venues in Europe as well as in Asia, the Middle East, the USA, New Zealand, South Africa and South America.

Konstantin Scherbakov's Wigmore Hall's recital is part of the **Thursday Lunchtime** series presented by Lisa Peacock, which also includes recitals from pianists **Amir Katz** and **Stefan Ćirić**.

## Upcoming dates

### **Bach/Godowsky Two Cello Suites**

**28 September 2015** St. Gallen  
**29 September 2015** Sils Maria (Radio DRSII)  
**30 September 2015** Winterthur  
**19 April 2016** Zürich

### **Beethoven 'Eroica' (arr. Liszt)**

**22 October 2015** Chung Shan Hall, Taichung  
**26 October 2015** Taipei National Hall  
**26 November 2015** Wigmore Hall, London  
**6 December 2015** Paris  
**12 December 2015** Zürich, Tonhalle  
**5 January 2016** St. Moritz  
**31 January 2016** Moscow Conservatoire Big Hall  
**3 April 2016** Katowice  
**29 May 2016** Scuola di Musica di Fiesole  
**20 July 2016** Weimar  
**10 September 2016** Beethoven Festival, Bonn

### 1 & 2 April 2016

Krakow | Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra  
**Rachmaninoff** Piano Concerto No. 4, Op. 40

### 17 July 2016

Weimar | WDR Orchestra Leipzig  
**Ravel** Piano Concerto in G Major

## Konstantin Scherbakov

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The Swiss-Russian pianist Konstantin Scherbakov was a child prodigy, first playing the piano at 5 and then making his debut with an orchestra at 11 in a performance of Beethoven's 1st Piano Concerto. He later moved to Moscow to study at the *Tchaikovsky Conservatory* where he was mentored by his chief teacher the legendary Lev Naumov, whose assistant he later became. Scherbakov won the 1983 *First Rachmaninov Competition in Moscow* and followed that victory by winning an array of prizes at prestigious international competitions in Montreal and European competitions in Bolzano, Rome and Zürich. Konstantin Scherbakov built his career steadily in the former Soviet Union, where he has performed with all the leading orchestras and played recitals in more than a hundred cities.

Hailed by critics at the Lucerne Festival as a "*modern Rachmaninov*", he launched his international career in 1990 at the 20th Chamber Music Festival of Asolo in Italy, where he performed the complete Sergei Rachmaninoff works for piano solo in four recitals, to approval from Sviatoslav Richter who listened to his performance. In 1992 he and his family relocated to Switzerland and thereafter his career had a rather meteoric rise.

Konstantin Scherbakov is among today's most ubiquitous and often recorded pianists. The range of his repertory is vast and demanding, both technically and interpretively: EMI introduced him via its Debut Series in a disc of Johann Strauss II waltz paraphrases by Mœax Reger, Carl Tausig, Rosental, György Cziffra and others. Naxos signed him and his first recording, the Transcendental Etudes by Liapunov, was released in 1994



on that label's sister enterprise Marco Polo. Past recordings include the complete piano works of Shostakovich and Respighi, the complete piano/orchestral works of Medtner, Tchaikovsky, and Scriabin, and the complete Liszt transcriptions of Beethoven's nine symphonies. He is also presently producing a very rare complete set of Godowsky's piano works for Marco Polo.

The Liszt/Beethoven series received high critical acclaim, with the Ninth being awarded the German Critics' Prize 2005; his recording of L. Godowsky's Sonata in E minor for Marco Polo also won this prize in December 2001. Scherbakov's recording of the 24 Preludes and Fugues of Shostakovich for Naxos received the Classical Award 2001 at Cannes.

His repertoire also includes such disparate composers as Domenico Scarlatti, Lyapunov and Franck. In addition to recitals, orchestral performances and tours all over the world, and televised and broadcast performances throughout Europe, his concert activity has brought participation in major festivals, such as Frankfurt, Bregenz, Bodensee, Luzern, Klavier-Festival Ruhr, Bad Kissingen, Schubertiade Feldkirch and Salzburg, among others.

Amid a heavy concert and recording schedule Scherbakov joined the piano faculty at the Zürich Arts University in 1998. He also regularly conducts master-classes in pianism and is appearing as a jury member for various prestigious piano competitions.