



Classical Concerts Productions Ltd.

Presents

IVO STANKOV - Violin



BIOGRAPHY 450 words

Ivo Stankov has become one of Bulgaria's leading and most versatile artists of his generation.

Described by the press as "a stunning virtuoso" he has captivated audiences in the UK and in Europe with his "commanding" style and

"spirited" performances. He is equally at home as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and educator.

As a soloist he has performed in the UK with the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Mozart Players, and has recently recorded a CD of Mendelssohn's violin and piano concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also performed with orchestras in Italy, Germany, USA, and Brazil, and with most of the orchestras in his native Bulgaria such as Sofia Philharmonic and Sofia Soloists.

As a recitalist and chamber musician Ivo has performed at all major chamber music venues in London, such as Wigmore Hall, King's Place, the South Bank, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and also at Westminster Parliament, the RAI Congress Centre (Amsterdam), and Bulgaria National Hall.

He has also performed at many of UK's concert halls such as Royal Albert Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Glasgow Concert Hall, Cadogan Hall, Queen Elisabeth Hall, and the Barbican.

He has collaborated with international artists such as Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits, and the film composer Johann Johannsson (*Theory of Everything*), and has performed chamber music with Chilingirian Quartet, violinist Svetlin Roussev, pianist Ashley Wass, cellists Guy Johnston and Stefan Popov among others.

Ivo has made a number of recordings for the *Bulgarian National Radio*. His debut CD album of Beethoven's violin sonatas was described as "an

excellent record” and was awarded five stars by Britain’s oldest classical music magazine *Musical Opinion*. He has appeared on several TV channels and was featured in one of the documentary series 'Very Important Bulgarians' by Bloomberg TV.

As a founder of “Stankov Ensemble” Ivo has premiered a number of works by leading British and Bulgarian composers such as Grammy - nominated Dobrinka Tabakova. He also premiered in London the violin concerto ‘Phantasmagorias’ written by Gheorghi Arnaoudov.

Ivo is the leader of Westminster Philharmonic Orchestra, and in addition is regularly leading a number of ensembles in London. He has also been invited as a guest leader of the Sofia Symphony Orchestra, Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells, and the London Schubert Players.

Ivo is currently a Violin professor at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (Junior department), St. Paul's Girls School, and the Whitgift School where he is coaching on a special programme for gifted music scholars, and is also a violin tutor with the *South London Youth Orchestra*. He is regularly invited as a jury member of competitions for young performers and also is giving Master Classes internationally.

Particularly interested in the propagation of Bulgarian music abroad Ivo founded the *London Festival of Bulgarian Culture*. Its four extremely successful editions (featuring special guest stars such as Nigel Kennedy) led to Ivo being awarded the *Silver medal* by the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the *Gold Medal ‘Boris Hristov’* and the 'Golden Sign' Medal of King Simeon by the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture.

Ivo graduated from the Royal Academy of Music where he studied with Eric Gruenberg.

His forthcoming engagements in 2019/2020 include concerto appearances, Master classes and adjudicating competitions in Bulgaria, Montenegro, Moldova, UK, Brazil, and the USA.

He plays on 1787 Gagliano violin.

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www.stankovensemble.com

www.lfbc.eu

"I had the pleasure of playing with Ivo at a charity event in September 2009. Ivo's playing was excellent and he was a pleasure to work with..."

Mark Knopfler

PRESS REVIEWS:

"Performances are technically immaculate..."

Michael Round, International Record Review, March 2014

"An excellent record by two very gifted artists, very well recorded earlier this year in Rome. The performances are uniformly warm and sensitive, and the deep musicality of these artists is both never in doubt and at all

times placed at the service of these great works. I hope they go on to complete a set of Beethoven's Violin Sonatas - if the standard is maintained, it should be a most recommendable set of CD's."

James Palmer, Musical Opinion, November 2013

"The violin sonatas by Beethoven bar No. 10 are relatively early works and the Bulgarian duo Ivo Stankov and Ivan Donchev play all three sonatas here with a light touch - youthful could be the collective header for the disc."

Goran Forsling, Music Web International, November 2013

"Given the delightful performances rendered here by violin virtuoso Ivo Stankov, and his sensitive collaborator, pianist Ivan Donchev, one cannot help but wonder if Beethoven's first three sonatas might have engendered a more positive stir had they been fielded by such a lively team."

Mark Thomas Ketterson, ConcertoNet, November 2013

"...Exceptionally interesting programme...a really good performance... Bulgarian Rhapsody Vardar brought the recital to a close in commanding style..."

Robert Matthew-Walker, Musical Opinion, Wigmore Hall Recital Debut, 2/06/06

"...the performance of Janacek's violin sonata excellently reflected the music's restless and wayward moods...Falla's Spanish dance was spirited...the long unaccompanied solo of Ravel's Tzigane was Stankov's best playing of the evening, projecting considerable intensity whilst also suggesting something of Gypsy spontaneity."

Max Harrison, Musical Opinion, Wigmore Hall Recital, 19/12/07



PHOTOS





Ivo Stankov with Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, Sofia and Varna Philharmonic Orchestra

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