



Valentina Lisitsa

Valentina Lisitsa is not only the first “YouTube star” of classical music; more importantly, she is the first classical artist to have converted her internet success into a global concert career in the principal venues of Europe, the USA, South America and Asia.

The Ukraine-born artist began her musical education in her native city of Kiev at the Lysenko Music School for highly talented children and continued it at the Conservatoire in the city. Not confining herself to the musical world, she also dreamed of a career as a professional chess player.

After emigrating to the USA, Valentina launched herself as a piano-duet partner alongside her husband. Several competition successes and the consequent concert engagements marked the start of her life as a concert artist. Soon, however, Valentina Lisitsa looked for new ways of enlarging her audience. Her exceptional sense of new developments and her openness to unconventional approaches proved vital.

She posted her first video on the internet platform YouTube in 2007, a recording of the Etude op. 39/6 by Sergei Rachmaninoff. In a broadcast interview, she said: "My first YouTube clip was a lo-fi VHS recording on an awful school piano, and my hands were out of sync with the sound. But even so, my message came across to people. Straight away they started telling me that my interpretations meant something to them, that they changed things, that they stood out." The views increased staggeringly; more videos followed. The foundation stone of a social-network career unparalleled in the history of classical music was laid. Her YouTube channel now records over 70 million clicks and has almost 130.000 subscribers.

In 2010, Valentina Lisitsa played the Dutch premiere of the newly arranged "Piano Concerto No. 5" (based on the Second Symphony) by Sergei Rachmaninoff with the Rotterdam Philharmonic. In 2011, she debuted with the Orchestra Sinfonica Brasileira under the baton of Lorin Maazel, having previously played with such orchestras as the Chicago Symphony, WDR SO Cologne, Seoul Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and Pittsburgh Symphony.

A spectacular recital in London's Royal Albert Hall before an audience of 8000 in June 2012 set the seal on her international breakthrough. Listeners had the chance to vote online in advance for their preferred programme – a form of audience participation that has become one of Valentina Lisitsa's "trade marks".

The major label DECCA gave Lisitsa an exclusive artist contract, releasing the live recording of the RAH concert only one month later on CD and DVD. With her newest CD “Chasing Pianos” she presents the piano music by Michael Nyman in honor of his 70th birthday.

In February 2013, Valentina Lisitsa made her debut in the large auditorium of the Berlin Philharmonie. In the 13/14 season, she also appeared at the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall London, in New York and Chicago. In 2014 she performed with Orchestre de Paris under Paavo Järvi, with Staatskapelle Dresden at Semperoper, in London's Wigmore Hall, at Prinzregententheater München and with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra in Vienna and Istanbul.

Upcoming highlights of 2015 include performances with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Royal



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Stockholm Philharmonic, the Prague Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as well as a tour throughout South Korea.

Valentina Lisitsa records exclusively for Decca Classics and is represented worldwide by Tanja Dorn at IMG Artists. For further information please visit: www.valentalisitsa.com