



# Boyan Vodenitcharov

Born in 1960, the pianist, Boyan Vodenitcharov, had already won second prize at the international Senigallia competition when he enrolled at the Sofia State Conservatory in 1979. He then won, amongst others, 3rd prize in the Busoni International competition in 1981, Grand Prize in the national competition for the Union of Bulgarian Composers in 1982, and 3rd prize in the Queen Elisabeth competition. In 1986 and 1987, he was awarded the Fullbright Grant to perfect his skills alongside Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore.

Since then, he has been acclaimed just as much in Europe as in the United States, Canada and Japan. Many festivals, such as the Festival of Flanders, Festival of Wallonia, the Ars Musica Festival in Belgium, the Amsterdam Piano Festival and the Midem Music Festival in France, have all invited him to perform his numerous pieces. His musical talent can be appreciated in many prestigious concert halls like the Centre of Fine Arts in Brussels, the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Strasbourg Convention and Conference Centre, the Smetana Hall in Prague and the Suntori Hall in Tokyo. As an internationally reputed concert artist, he has been accompanied by many orchestras such as the National Orchestra of Belgium, the Liège and Flanders Philharmonic Orchestras, the Hague Philharmonic Orchestra, Schwerin Symphony Orchestra (Germany), Sofia Philharmonic and the Kärtner Symphony Orchestra.

His participation in contemporary creation thanks to his numerous recent enactments (often written especially for him) is notable; for instance with the Contemporary Bulgarian Piano Music CD under the Gega label, as well as his collaborations with the Belgian musical ensemble (Musique Nouvelles) or the choreographer Frédéric Flamand.

For twenty years, he has had an interest in older instruments like the Tangent Piano or the Fortepiano. It is with these instruments that he recorded three Mozart piano trios as well as a selection of Haydn sonatas. In Denon's work, he rediscovers, alongside Ryp Terakado, Beethoven's complete piano and violin sonatas. Similarly, in Flora's work, with François Fernandez and Rainer Zipperling he goes back to Haydn's trios as well as the Fortepiano and violin sonatas and Mozart's piano quartets. Equally, he collaborates with other great experts in early music such as Marcel Ponsele, Sigiwald Kuijken, Jan Vermeulen and Piet Kuijken.

Aside from his instrumental activities, Boyan Vodenitcharov also works in composing and improvising. Several of his works have been played in France, Germany, Belgium and in Bulgaria. In his role as an improviser, he works with the jazz pianist Arnould Massart and the saxophonist Steve Houben, his partner for the CD "Les Valses" produced by Mogno Music and "Darker Scales" published by Igloo.

His recent discography consists of; solos from Brahms (by Bôsendorfer 1880) and Debussy (by Erard 1910) for the Explicit label and sonatas from Mozart (by Walter 1795) for Fuga Libera, as well as a improvised musical project for the piano solo.

From 1981 to 1991, he was a piano professor at the Sofia State Conservatory. He has since taught piano and chamber music at the Royal Conservatories of Ghent and Liège. At the moment, he teaches piano, Fortepiano and improvisation at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. In 2003, 2007 and 2010, he was a judge for the Queen Elisabeth competition.