

Hélène Grimaud



Hélène Grimaud studied music in her native town of Aix en Provence, in Marseille with Pierre Barbizet and from the age of 12 at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris under Jacques Rouvier, Gyorgy Sandor and Leon Fleischer.

1987 marked a decisive turning point in her career when she won the Cannes Classical Award at MIDEM, and on hearing the live broadcast of this performance, Daniel Barenboim was prompted to invite her to audition for him. Thereafter followed an invitation to the Orchestre de Paris and a string of high profile engagements including her first performance at La Roque d'Anthéron Piano Festival, and her debut recital in Tokyo.

Since then Hélène Grimaud has been performing regularly in the leading music centres and with orchestras including the Philharmonia, NHK Symphony and Munich Philharmonic. In the US she continues to appear from east to west coast with ensembles such as the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Chicago, San Francisco and Washington National Symphony Orchestras.

From early in her career Ms Grimaud has worked with conductors of the highest calibre, including Chailly, Gergiev, Haitink, Ashkenazy, Salonen, Temirkanov and Zinman. Soloist at the BBC's Last Night of the Proms in September, this season she collaborates again with Vladimir Jurowski, with whom she tours with both the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe; with Daniel Harding and the Mahler Chamber and the London Symphony Orchestras; and with Philippe Jordan and the Orchestra della Scala in Milan. Spring 2009 sees her performing the Bach D minor Piano Concerto and some short pieces by Silvestrov around Europe with the Bayerische Rundfunk Chamber Orchestra.

An enthusiastic chamber musician and recitalist, Ms Grimaud performs regularly in the most prestigious festivals and music capitals with artists such as Thomas Quasthoff, Jörg Widmann, Christine Schaefer and Renaud Capuçon.

In 2002 Hélène Grimaud signed an exclusive recording contract with the Deutsche Grammophon label, for whom she recently recorded a Bach disc, incorporating solo works, transcriptions and the D minor Concerto, directing the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen from the keyboard. Previous DGG recordings include a Beethoven disc featuring the Fifth Piano Concerto with the Staatskapelle Dresden and Vladimir Jurowski; *Reflection*, combining works by Johannes Brahms and both Robert and Clara Schumann; *Credo*, with works by Beethoven and Pärt performed with the Swedish Radio Orchestra and Esa-Pekka Salonen; a Chopin/Rachmaninov recital disc; and Bartók's Piano Concerto No.3 recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra and Pierre Boulez. A recording artist since the age of 15, her early catalogue includes works by Liszt, Ravel, Rachmaninov, Strauss and Gershwin.

A recipient of numerous awards worldwide, Hélène Grimaud has also been recognised in her native France, where she was appointed 'Officier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres' by the French Ministère de la Culture in 2002 and 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite' in 2008. In 2005 she won the ECHO Award in the category 'Instrumentalist of the Year'.

Grimaud is the author of two books, *Variations Sauvages* and *Leçons Particulières*, both published by Editions Robert Laffont. *Variations Sauvages* has already been translated into several languages including English under the title *Wild Harmonies*. Both books have been a runaway success in France and Germany, where they have appeared on the top best-seller lists.

In 1999 Hélène Grimaud founded the Wolf Conservation Center, a cause which she continues to champion. More recently she has given her name and support to a number of other charities which include Amnesty International, International Children's Camp Villa Sans Souci and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

www.helenegrimaud.com

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