



HARRISON PARROTT

Ksenija Sidorova Accordion

Praised as “revelatory” (*The Telegraph*) and playing with “verve, style, attitude and impeccable virtuosity” (*ZealNYC*), Ksenija Sidorova is the world’s undisputed leading ambassador for the classical accordion. Ksenija’s charismatic performances showcase not only her instrument’s unique capabilities, but also her own intense passion and breathtaking skill. Her repertoire spans over three centuries from J.S. Bach to Václav Trojan. She has championed concertos by Astor Piazzolla and Erkki-Sven Tüür around the world – the latter often in collaboration with Paavo Järvi.

A passionate advocate of new music, several accordion works have been composed especially for her. Already in January 2023, Ksenija has released the first recording of Arturs Maskats’ accordion concerto with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra and Andris Poga, described as “wonderful and evocative” (*Gramophone*). She begins this season by giving the world premiere of *Chaconne* by Sergei Akhunov with both Riga Sinfonietta and London Chamber Orchestra acting as co-commissioners. Estonian composer Tõnu Kõrvits is also writing a new concerto for her to be premiered with Paavo Järvi and his Estonian Festival Orchestra at Parnu Festival in summer 2024.

This season, she returns to Münchner Philharmoniker and will make her debut with Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Istanbul State Symphony, Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra, and Collegium Musicum Basel. Recent highlights include Le Concert de Paris with Orchestre National de France and the Last Night of the Proms with BBC Symphony Orchestra where she was “the indisputable highlight of the evening” (*BBC News*). She performs regularly with Tonhalle Orchester-Zürich, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, Orchestre National d’Île de France, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg and Stuttgarter Philharmoniker. She maintains long-standing working relationships with eminent conductors such as Paavo Järvi, Thomas Hengelbrock and Vasily Petrenko, and also with Krzysztof Urbanski, Christian Reif and Nil Venditti.

In chamber music this season, she starts original collaborations with artistic colleagues: a beautifully crafted programme ‘Anima’ with Signum Saxophone Quartet and a special project with tenor Benjamin Appl. Last season, Ksenija and longtime friend, mandolinist Avi Avital, celebrated their 10-year anniversary of playing together at the Wigmore Hall, and they tour this season across Germany and Belgium. Her other chamber partners include Nemanja Radulović, Andreas Ottensamer, Goldmund Quartet, Camille Thomas, Tine Thing Helseth, Juan Diego Flórez and Nicola Benedetti. Ksenija is a staple guest performer at the Ravinia, Cheltenham, Mostly Mozart, Schleswig-Holstein, Gstaad Menuhin, MITO, Verbier and Rheingau music festivals.

Her album *Piazzolla Reflections* (Alpha), released in 2021, has been acclaimed as “brilliantly played [and] beautifully recorded” (*Gramophone*), numbered among the best new classical albums of the year (*Classic Review*), and was named *BR Klassik*’s album of the month. This follows previous successful releases: *Classical Accordion* (Champs Hill Records, 2011); *Fairy Tales* (Champs Hill Records, 2013) recorded with BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Rundel; and *Carmen* (Deutsche Grammophon, 2016) for which she won the ECHO prize for Instrumentalist of the Year in 2017.

Encouraged by her grandmother, herself steeped in the folk tradition of accordion playing, Ksenija started to play the instrument at the age of six under the guidance of Marija Gasele in her hometown of Riga. Her unfettered interest in classical and contemporary repertoire took her to the Royal Academy of Music, London, where she became a prize-winning undergraduate and postgraduate studying under Owen Murray. In May 2012, she became the first International Award winner of the Bryn Terfel Foundation and appeared at the Royal Albert Hall in October 2015 as part of his 50th birthday celebrations, alongside Sting. She is a recipient of Philharmonia Orchestra’s Martin Musical Scholarship and Friends of the Philharmonia Award, as well as the Worshipful Company of Musicians Silver Medal. Ksenija has been an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music since 2016 and was made a Fellow (FRAM) in 2021.