

Nicolai Gerassimez, Piano

"An artist with an infectious delight in playing, delicate sensitivity, and a sophisticated touch."
(Rheinpfalz – 2013)

Nicolai Gerassimez has established himself as one of the leading pianists of his generation, both as a soloist and chamber musician. Winning First Prize at the Deutscher Musikwettbewerb in 2010 as well as 2012 brought him to the attention of a wider public.

Since 2011 he has recorded several CDs for the Genuin label. His debut CD with cellist Norbert Anger, "Changing Colours", received rave reviews as well. "This is an outstanding interpretation, ... full of feeling and virtuosity." (American Record Guide)

2014 saw the release of the "Free Fall" CD recorded with his brother Wassily Gerassimez. It includes cello sonatas by Mendelssohn and Shostakovich, among others, and jazz compositions by Wassily Gerassimez himself. The recording is based on prior concerts by the two artists, described in a newspaper review as thrilling, homogenous, and almost intuitively interactive.

Despite his young age, Nicolai Gerassimez is already able to look back on a long line of musical successes and highlights. He has performed solo concerts and recitals at the most prestigious music centres of Europe and the USA, including the Berlin Philharmonie, London Wigmore Hall, Hamburg's Laeiszhalle and the Berlin Konzerthaus as well as important international festivals, such as the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

He is also a soloist for recognised orchestras, including the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Essen Philharmonic Orchestra, the Berlin Symphony Orchestra and the Bochum Symphony Orchestra, and has worked with such conductors as Kristjan Järvi and Stefan Soltesz. Nicolai Gerassimez has made several radio recordings for German public broadcasters WDR, SWR, BR, hr2, and NDR.

The young artist is the winner of numerous national and international prizes. Together with his brother Wassily, he received the Audience Award at the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival in 2012. In 2009 he was an awardee of the international chamber music competition "Premio Vittorio Gui" in Italy. He won First Prize at the international Hugo Distler Competition for chamber music in 2007. In 2006 he and his two brothers were awarded the Aalto Stage Prize. In the same year at Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, he and his brother Alexej (percussion) won the Nordmetall Prize for best ensemble. In 2004 he was honoured with the culture award "Essens Beste" and gave six recitals as part of the concert series "The Best of NRW" in the following year. In 2003 he and his brother Alexej, on piano and percussion respectively, were awarded First Prize at the Karel Kunc Chamber Music Competition. He also won the Ferdinand Trimborn Competition NRW. In 2000 he was the only German awardee at the Ettlingen International Competition for Young Pianists. In the same year he received First Prize and the Audience Award at the Steinway Piano Competition in Hamburg. He achieved the maximum score and won First Prize multiple times at the national "Jugend musiziert" competition, whereupon he was honoured with the Diethard Wucher Prize and a special award by Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben.

Nicolai Gerassimez was born into a musicians' family in Essen and began to play piano at the age of five. He studied with Prof. Josef Anton Scherrer at Musikhochschule Köln, with Julia Goldstein-Manz in Hannover, with Prof. Galina Iwanzowa at Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" in Berlin and at HMT Rostock with Prof. Matthias Kirschner. He did degrees in piano and chamber music, graduating with honours both times. Nicolai Gerassimez has been teaching as a lecturer at HMT Rostock since 2011. Several international master classes with Annerose Schmidt, Lew Naumow, Grigory Gruzmann, Klaus Hellwig, Jacques Rouvier, Stanislav Pochekin, Felix Gottlieb, Jorunn Marie Bratlie, Richard Good, Ewa Kupiec, and Maria Jaguaribe at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (USA), among others, have contributed to his musical career.