



## Inon Barnatan

Pianist

"One of the most admired pianists of his generation" (*New York Times*), Inon Barnatan is celebrated for his poetic sensibility, musical intelligence, and consummate artistry. He was a recipient of Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award in 2015, recognizing "young artists of exceptional accomplishment," as well as the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2009. This year he embarks on his third and final season as the inaugural Artist-in-Association of the New York Philharmonic, in which capacity he plays Beethoven's First Piano Concerto in February under the baton of Manfred Honeck. Barnatan also collaborates with Philharmonic Music Director Alan Gilbert, who calls him "the complete artist: a wonderful pianist, a probing intellect, passionately committed, and a capable contemporary-music pianist as well." The two perform Beethoven's Second Concerto this season for Barnatan's Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra debut, after joining forces in recent months with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields to record that orchestra's first complete Beethoven concerto cycle on disc.

The pianist opens his 2016-17 season playing and leading Mozart's Concerto No. 13 with San Francisco's New Century Chamber Orchestra, followed by a packed schedule that includes debuts with the Chicago, Baltimore, Seattle, Nashville, San Diego and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras, and returns to many orchestras and venues around the U.S. He also makes his debut with the Hong Kong Philharmonic under Jaap Van Zweden and his Australian debut with the Queensland Symphony, returns to Tokyo with the Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra, and performs the complete Beethoven piano concerto cycle in Marseilles.

In January Barnatan joins his frequent recital partner, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, along with clarinetist Anthony McGill, for a trio tour of the U.S., performing works by Beethoven and Brahms alongside the world premiere of a new work by the young American composer Joseph Hallman.

In the spring the pianist leads his third U.S. tour with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, playing and conducting Mozart and Shostakovich concertos from the keyboard, as well as the premiere of a newly commissioned concerto by Alasdair Nicolson. Soon after he embarks on a European recital tour with Weilerstein, and he ends the season playing solo recitals in Tel Aviv and London's Wigmore Hall.

Highlights of recent seasons include his Walt Disney Hall debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel; performances of Copland's jazz-inflected Piano Concerto with the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas in San Francisco and at Carnegie Hall; a debut with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic; performances with the

Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon; and solo recital debuts at the Celebrity Series of Boston and the Harris Theater in Chicago. He has performed with many of the world's most celebrated orchestras, and under such eminent conductors as Roberto Abbado, Susanna Mälkki, Vasily Petrenko, James Gaffigan, Matthias Pintscher, Edo De Waart, Pinchas Zukerman and Jaap van Zweden, among many others. He also collaborated with choreographer Mark Morris and pianist Garrick Ohlsson in a string of performances by the Mark Morris Dance company at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York.

A sought-after chamber musician, Barnatan was a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's *CMS Two* program from 2006 to 2009, and is still a regular performer on CMS programs at home in New York and on tour. His passion for contemporary music has led him to commission and perform many works by living composers, including Thomas Adès, George Benjamin, George Crumb, Avner Dorman, James MacMillan, Kaija Saariaho and others. In past seasons he has premiered new pieces written for him by Matthias Pintscher and Sebastian Currier, commissioned jointly by Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw and the Aspen Music Festival. He also gave the European premiere of a piano concerto by Andrew Norman with the Orchestre National de France, and composer Alan Fletcher is writing a new piano concerto for him that will be performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, as well as with the Atlanta Symphony and at the Aspen Music Festival.

Barnatan's latest album release is a live recording of Messiaen's 90-minute masterpiece, *Des Canyons Aux Etoiles* ("From the Canyons to the Stars"), in which he played the notoriously challenging solo piano part with an ensemble conducted by Alan Gilbert at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Last October the pianist released *Rachmaninov & Chopin: Cello Sonatas* on Decca Classics with Alisa Weilerstein, which earned rave reviews on both sides of the Atlantic. His most recent solo album, featuring Schubert's late piano sonatas, was released by Avie in September 2013. It garnered praise from such publications as *Gramophone* and *BBC Music*, and his rendition of the great A major Sonata, D. 959 from the disc was chosen by BBC Radio 3 as one of the all-time best recordings of this piece. His 2012 album, *Darkness Visible*, debuted in the Top 25 of the Billboard Traditional Classical chart in its first week of release and received universal critical acclaim, being named *BBC Music's* "Instrumentalist CD of the Month" and winning a coveted place on the *New York Times's* "Best Classical Music Recordings of 2012" list. His debut solo recording of Schubert piano works, released by Bridge Records in 2006, prompted *Gramophone* to hail him as "a born Schubertian" and London's *Evening Standard* to call him "a true poet of the keyboard: refined, searching, unfailingly communicative."

Born in Tel Aviv in 1979, Inon Barnatan started playing the piano at the age of three after his parents discovered he had perfect pitch, and he made his orchestral debut at eleven. His musical education connects him to some of the 20th century's most illustrious pianists and teachers: he studied first with Professor Victor Derevianko, who, himself, studied with the Russian master Heinrich Neuhaus; and in 1997 he moved to London to study at the Royal

Academy of Music with Maria Curcio – a student of the legendary Artur Schnabel – and with Christopher Elton. Leon Fleisher has also been an influential teacher and mentor. Barnatan currently resides in a converted warehouse in Harlem in New York City. For more information about Inon Barnatan visit [www.inonbarnatan.com](http://www.inonbarnatan.com).

©21C Media Group, September 2016