

Jonian Ilias Kadesha | Biography

Violin



"Hardly any other violinist plays as edgy, boldly, unconventionally and yet with such stylistic confidence and taste as Kadesha. He improvises, uses ornaments in his own way and puts everything at the service of expression."

Jonian Ilias Kadesha's studies in philosophy and rhetoric affect the stylistic accuracy of his interpretations of both early and contemporary music. His rich imagination is evident in his creation of soundscapes and projects that he curates as a soloist, conductor and chamber musician.

Kadesha has performed throughout Europe, with, among others, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe with Sir András Schiff, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic with Jonathan Bloxham, the MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig with Martijn Dendiviel, the Tapiola Sinfonietta with Ryan Bancroft and the Slovenian Philharmonic with Aziz Shokhakimov. Kadesha made his debut with the Greek State Orchestra of Athens in the fall of 2019 with Skalkottas' Violin Concerto, whose *Little Suites* he recorded together with works by Enescu and Ravel for CAvi-music in 2017 with pianist Nicholas Rimmer. Together with cellist Vashti Hunter, in collaboration with Deutschlandfunk Kultur, CAvi-music released the CD *A Journey for two* with works by Honegger, Skalkottas, Xenakis and Kodály. It is clear that Skalkottas is particularly important to Kadesha. In 2021, Linn Records signed him and in 2022 released the CD *Homage à J.S.B.: Works for Violin Solo* with Bach's Partita in D minor, a world premiere of Helena Winkelmann's Ciaccona, as well as works by Kurtág, Biber, Schnittke and Auerbach. In 2024, the first recording of Giovanni Sollima's Violin Concerto *Tyche* was released on the album *Suite Italienne*, together with CHAARTS Chamber Artists and paired with works by Stravinsky and Vivaldi. The world premiere of *Tyche* took place at the Boswiler Sommer 2022.

The young violinist performs at major concert halls and renowned festivals throughout Europe. Performances have taken him to the Wigmore Hall London, the Louvre Paris, the Philharmonie Berlin, the Konzerthaus Vienna, the Schubertiade, the Heidelberger Frühling, the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival as well as to the opening of the Young Euro Classic Festival in Berlin.

He is increasingly in demand with leading chamber orchestras as play/director and has worked with the London Mozart Players, the Aurora Orchestra, the Manchester Camerata, the Netherlands, Scottish and Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestras, as well as the Caerus Chamber Ensemble, which he co-founded. His approach to the classical orchestral canon is informed by his chamber music playing and he often improvises his own cadenzas and ornamentation.

Kadesha is a committed chamber musician, collaborating with renowned musicians such as Martha Argerich, Steven Isserlis, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Nicolas Altstaedt and Antje Weithaas. He is co-founder of the award-winning Trio Gaspard, which regularly appears at festivals and venues around the world. He is also a member of the Kelemen Quartet.

Born in Athens of Albanian and Greek heritage, Kadesha studied from a young age at Musikhochschule Würzburg, followed by Kronberg Academy, where he completed his Masters in 2020. He has studied with Antje Weithaas, Salvatore Accardo, Grigori Zhislin and Ulf Wallin. He studied chamber music with Hatto Beyerle in Hannover and has taken part in masterclasses with Ferenc Rados, Steven Isserlis, Ivry Gitlis, Leonidas Kavakos and Eberhard Feltz. Since summer 2023, Kadesha himself has held a professorship at Bern Academy of the Arts.

He has won prizes at the German Music Competition (2016), Windsor International (2017) and the Leopold Mozart Violin Competition (2013).

Kadesha plays a violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini (1749) thanks to a private loan.