

Tzimon Barto | Biography

Piano



"Barto is audibly interested in the spirit of the piano concerto and not in himself"

The connection between poetry and music is for Tzimon Barto of utmost importance and meaning, both as a pianist and in his writings. This is also apparent in his musical interpretations: he takes an exceedingly personal and unconventional approach, captivating audiences with his zeal, exquisite sense of tonal color, subtle nuances and a superb technique. A colorful, surpassingly varied range of expressive elements from feather-light melodic lines to expressive chord series characterize his performance.

As one of the foremost American pianists, Tzimon Barto celebrated his international breakthrough in the mid-1980's when he performed at the Wiener Musikverein and the Salzburger Festspiele at the invitation of Herbert von Karajan. Tzimon Barto has performed with almost every major international orchestra and is a regular guest at the most renowned festivals.

Highlights of previous seasons include his performances at La Scala Milan as well as his Brahms Piano Concerto no. 2 with the NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, the Hong Kong Philharmonic and Konzerthausorchester Berlin. In 2016/17, as part of his residency with the SWR Symphony Orchestra, he played Ravel's Piano Concerto on an extremely successful tour in Spain. As part of the Présences Festival 2019 in Paris, Tzimon Barto performed with the Orchestre National de France performing Rihm's Second Piano Concerto, a work dedicated to him and premiered in 2014 at the Salzburg Festival together with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra under Christoph Eschenbach. Last season there was a great focus on the piano concertos by Bartók and Brahms, which he performed throughout Europe and Germany.

Tzimon Barto's extensive discography includes albums featuring works by Haydn, Rameau, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Schumann and Brahms. His latest releases are dedicated to the Ives *Concord Sonata*, the Busoni version of Bach's Goldberg Variations, as well as the Paganini Variations of Liszt, Brahms, Lutoslawski and Rachmaninoff. The seldom heard Piano Concerto by Hans Pfitzner in E-flat Major has been released in 2013 under the Dresdner Staatskapelle label conducted by Christian Thielemann.

Born and raised in Florida, Tzimon Barto received his first piano lessons from his grandmother at the age of five. He studied under the famous music-pedagogue and pianist Adele Marcus at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, where he won the Gina Bachauer Competition in two consecutive years.

In 2006 he initiated *The Barto Prize*, promoting contemporary piano compositions in an international competition and integrates the winning compositions in his recital programs.

Tzimon Barto speaks five languages fluently, reads ancient Greek, Latin and Hebrew and is learning Mandarin. His book *A Lady of Greek Origin* was published in 2001 and again in 2008 in a revised version, and a stage version was performed in Frankfurt and Vienna. In 2010, his novel *Harold Flanders* was published.