Sergei Babayan

Piano

Hailed for his emotional intensity, bold energy and remarkable levels of colour, Sergei Babayan brings a deep understanding and insight to an exceptionally diverse repertoire. Le Figaro praised his "unequalled touch, perfectly harmonious phrasing and breath-taking virtuosity." Montreal’s Le Devoir put it simply: “Sergei Babayan is a genius.”

Sergei Babayan collaborates with the world's foremost conductors including David Robertson, Neeme Järvi, Yuri Temirkanov, Thomas Dausgaard and Tugan Sokhiev, Rafal Payare alongside orchestras such as the London Symphony, Cleveland, Warsaw Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore and New World Symphonies.

He performs frequently with Valery Gergiev, including appearances at the Barbican Centre with the London Symphony Orchestra, the "Stars of the White Nights" and Salzburg Festivals, the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées and the Rotterdam Philharmonic-Gergiev Festival, where he was artist-in-residence.

Sergei Babayan’s engagements take him to eminent venues including the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Herkulessaal in Munich, Konzerthaus Berlin, Rudolfinum-Dvorak Hall and many others.

The 2019/2020 season saw performances scheduled at Carnegie Hall, with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Mariinsky Orchestra, Toronto Symphony and the Verbier Festival Orchestra. He was a Curating Artist at the Konzerthaus Dortmund during this season.

An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist, his latest release of Rachmaninov solo works won awards around the world including BBC Music Magazine’s *Recording of the Month*. His previous album, featuring his own transcriptions of works for two pianos by Prokofiev, with Martha Argerich was praised as ‘the CD one has waited for’ (Le Devoir).

Born in Armenia, Babayan began his studies with Georgy Saradjev and continued at the Moscow Conservatory with Mikhail Pletnev, Vera Gornostayeva and Lev Naumov. He won first prizes at competitions including the Cleveland International Piano Competition and the Hamamatsu Piano Competition.