

Mariana Popova, Piano

Pianist Mariana Popova's deep interest in musical dialogue led her early on to an intensive focus on the fields of piano chamber music and art song accompaniment. Over the course of her concert career, she has increasingly combined these two aspects and, since 2017, has been one of the first lecturers to lead a training class in "Vocal Chamber Music" at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg.

Mariana Popova's concert performances have taken her to nearly all European countries, as well as to Asia and the USA. She has been invited to festivals such as the Summit Music Festival in New York, the Aarhus Festival for New Music (Denmark), Varna Summer (Bulgaria), Heures Musicales de Biot (France), Castelló Festival (Spain), Heidelberger Frühling, and the Schwetzingen Festspiele.

As an art song accompanist, she has received awards at the "Concours International de Musique de Chambre" in Lyon, France, the International Brahms Song Competition in Pörtlach, Austria, and the Manhattan International Music Competition in New York. In 2010, she curated her first solo song recital series, dedicated to the major works of Clara and Robert Schumann. Mariana Popova has served as an official accompanist for vocal masterclasses led by Brigitte Fassbaender, Reri Grist, Margreet Honig, Christiane Iven, and Robert Holl.

She has collaborated with renowned artists such as Christiane Karg, Dominik Köninger, Huiling Zhu, Yvi Jänicke, Renate Behle, Boglárka Pecze, Julius Bekesch, Hannah Weber, and Christian Quadflieg. Her partnerships with composers such as Peter Ruzicka, Hans Zender, Ernst Ludwig Leitner, Fredrik Schwenk, Johannes Boris Borowski, Ruta Paidere, Judit Varga, and Khadija Zeynalova reflect her strong commitment to contemporary music.

Popova's work is documented in numerous CD recordings, radio, and television broadcasts in Bulgaria, Germany, France, and the USA. In summer 2012, under the commission of the German Federal Foreign Office, she recorded a CD featuring art songs from all Baltic Sea countries to mark Germany's presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. In 2019, she released the CD Spectrum with coloratura soprano Lini Gong, a personal homage to Hamburg as a "harbor of song."

In 2025, her new album Wishes will be released on the GENUIN label, in collaboration with soprano Lisa Schmalz and clarinetist Boglárka Pecze. The album intertwines romantic and contemporary vocal chamber music repertoire.

Mariana Popova, who comes from a German-Bulgarian family, began her piano studies as a young student with Oxana Yablonskaya at the Juilliard School in New York. She later studied with Evgeni Koroliov (piano) and Gernot Kahl (art song accompaniment) at the

Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg, as well as with Karl-Peter Kammerlander at the Franz Liszt University of Music in Weimar. Her artistry has been shaped by significant influences from Dalton Baldwin, Bruno Canino, and Menahem Pressler.