



JULIEN LIBEER

Piano

Born in 1987 near Brussels, Belgium, Julien Libeer's earliest musical memory was the famous documentary on the recording of *West Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein. The piano, which he took up at age six, quickly became the faithful companion for expressing a love of music that, until today, thrives as much on opera, orchestra, and chamber music as on the piano repertoire.

For five decisive years, French-Polish pedagogue Jean Fassina was the patient, demanding, wise teacher that any aspiring musician should have the chance to encounter. This experience was followed by the equally intense, ongoing collaboration with Maria João Pires at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, whose advice and support strongly influenced Julien's views over the last years, and continue to do so.

Julien has performed at the Palais des Beaux-Arts and Flagey (Brussels), Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), Barbican Hall (London), Auditorio Nacional (Madrid), Palau de la Musica (Barcelona) and Concertgebouw Amsterdam. In addition, other tours have taken him to Japan (Tokyo, Sumida Tryphony Hall), Lebanon (Beirut Chants festival), Turkey (Ankara Music Festival) and the US (Miami International Piano Festival).

He has performed with the Brussels Philharmonic, Belgian National Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, deFilharmonie, Sinfonia Varsovia and New Japan Philharmonic among others, under conductors including Trevor Pinnock, Michel Tabachnik, Augustin Dumay, George Pehlevanian, Joshua Weilerstein, Enrique Mazzola and Christopher Warren-Green.

An accomplished chamber musician, he works on regular basis with Augustin Dumay, Camille Thomas, Frank Braley, Maria João Pires and Lorenzo Gatto, with whom he will perform the complete Beethoven violin sonatas over the next few seasons (at venues including the Wigmore Hall, Louvre (Paris) and Concertgebouw Amsterdam).

Highlights of the 18/19 season include recitals at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Baerum Kulturhaus (Sandvika) and Miami Piano Festival as well as several orchestral engagements. In addition, he will have two album releases; the first will be the second installment of Beethoven Violin Sonatas with Lorenzo Gatto (*Alpha Classics*), following on from the huge success of the first release which won the *Diapason d'or de l'année 2016*. The second will be a concerto album featuring Lipatti's *Concertino for piano and orchestra* and Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat major, KV 595* (*Evil Penguin Records / Les Métamorphoses Orchestra / Raphaël Feye, conductor*). Julien will perform both of these concertos at Flagey (Brussels) in December 2018.

Julien has studied with Daniel Blumenthal (Royal Conservatory of Brussels), Jean Fassina (Paris), and is an associate artist of the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, where he also specialized in chamber music with the members of the Artemis Quartet. Furthermore, he has received the advice of Dmitry Bashkirov, Alfred Brendel, Jura Margulis and Gerhard Schulz (Alban Berg Quartet).

Although he consciously avoided engaging in any kind of competition, Julien has received such honorary prizes as the Juventus award (most promising young European soloist) in 2008, and was elected Young Musician of the Year by the Belgian Music Press

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Association in 2010. The Klara award 2013 was attributed to him by the audience of the national radio for classical music. Much appreciated for his eloquence, Julien is a regular guest of media at home and abroad. He hosted a talk show on classical music on Belgian national TV. His work has been subject of a TV documentary ("Technique doesn't exist", 2013), which is also available on YouTube.

Based in Brussels, he spends most of his free time reading, swimming or enjoying a good series, and is actively engaged in a number of social projects, all rooted in the idea that music, far beyond its aesthetic value, can be a force of change for anyone ready to listen.

For the most up-to-date biography, please contact us. This biography should not be edited without permission from Askonas Holt.

SUSIE MURRAY / AUGUST 2018

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