Vivi Vassileva

Multipercussion

Described as „an artist who thrills her audience, exploring and shifting the limits of the percussive world”, Vivi Vassileva is being celebrated not only for her technical perfection, but her astonishing virtuosity, combining agility and power in her performance, leading a new generation of percussionists in their pursuit to showcase percussion as the instrument of the 21st century.

The 2024/25 season holds numerous highlights for Vivi Vassileva, amongst them the premiere of a new percussion concerto by Sauli Zinovjev with Beethoven Orchestra Bonn. Her highly successful debut with Luxembourg Philharmonic last season results in a European tour to include Vienna, amongst others, this season. Vassileva will be recording two highly renowned percussion concertos - Daníel Bjarnason’s *Inferno* with Iceland Philharmonic and Gregor A. Mayrhofer’s *Recycling Concerto* with SWR Symphony Orchestra. Once again, she takes the lead in Wiener Konzerthaus’ The *Percussive Planet* series – a commitment that started last season. Chamber Music projects take her to Tonhalle Zurich, Brucknerhaus Linz and Wiener Konzerthaus amongst others. Vivi Vassileva will furthermore return to important festivals such as Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Gstaad Menuhin Festival and Beethovenfest Bonn.

Last season’s highlights include her debuts with Frankfurt Radio Orchestra and Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, her return to Gürzenich Orchestra and her last time appearing as “Junge Wilde” at Konzerthaus Dortmund, a commitment that started in 2021. Vassileva is passionate about commissioning new works to expand the percussion repertoire, including works by Bushra El-Turk, Christian Jost, Avner Dorman and Gregor Mayrhofer. Her concerto repertoire includes works by Kalevi Aho, Oriol Cruixent, Tan Dun, John Corigliano, Avner Dorman, Friedrich Cerha, Daníel Bjarnason and Keiko Abe. Admired for her innovative programming style, Vassileva offers new, accessible ways for audiences to become acquainted with her instruments and her craft, as she introduces projects with percussion instruments made from recycled materials. She makes regular performances alongside recital partners including Frank Dupree and guitarist Lucas Campara Diniz as well as her own percussion ensemble, Extasi Ensemble, at venues such as Berliner Philharmonie, Konzerthaus Dortmund and Snape Maltings, along with festivals such as Salzburg Festival and Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival.

In 2019 Vassileva signed an exclusive recording contract with Outhere Music France for their Alpha Classics label. Her debut album release Singin’ Rhythm features works by Guillo Espel, Eric Sammut, Oriol Cruixent and Keiko Abe, most of them premiere recordings, alongside some rarely heard or premiere arrangements and compositions by Vassileva herself.

Vassileva began her formal training at the age of ten with Claudio Estay and later entered the National Youth Orchestra of Germany as youngest member. More success was immediate with prizes at international competitions and two special prizes as the youngest semi-finalist at the prestigious ARD Music Competition in 2014. She received the Kulturkreis Gasteig Musikpreis 2016 for her own composition and arrangement of the Bulgarian Folk Song Kalino Mome. In 2017 she was awarded the Bayerische Kunstförderpreis and in 2023 the Leonard-Bernstein Award. Vivi Vassileva is a graduate of Mozarteum University Salzburg where she studied under Martin Grubinger.