

Kirill GERSTEIN

Piano

“On the fast track to a major career, and he deserves to be.” – Boston Globe

Recognized for his masterful technique and probing interpretations, Russian pianist Kirill Gerstein has quickly proved to be one of today's most intriguing young musicians.

Highlights of Mr. Gerstein's 2009/2010 North American season include debuts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Charles Dutoit, and with the Atlanta Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Rochester Philharmonic; re-engagements with the Detroit, Houston and Oregon symphonies; and a tour with cellist Steven Isserlis that includes performances at the Kennedy Center and in San Francisco. Internationally he appears with the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, tours Switzerland with the Russian National Orchestra, performs with the NDR Orchester Hannover in Austria and Italy, and makes his Hong Kong recital debut.

Mr. Gerstein's most recent engagements in North America include performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa and the San Francisco, Baltimore, Dallas, Indianapolis, Vancouver, Oregon and Utah symphonies; the Philadelphia Orchestra at Mann Music Center and Saratoga, the Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom, and Chicago's Grant Park Festival; and recitals in Boston, New York, Cincinnati, Detroit, Vancouver, Kansas City, Portland, OR and Washington's Kennedy Center.

Very active internationally, Kirill Gerstein has worked with such prominent European orchestras as the Munich, Rotterdam and Royal Philharmonics, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, Zurich Tonhalle, the Finnish and Swedish Radio Orchestras, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, and the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, as well as with Gustavo Dudamel and the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. He has also appeared in recital in Paris, Prague, Hamburg, London's Wigmore and Queen Elizabeth halls, and the Liszt Academy in Budapest. He made his Salzburg Festival debut with Andras Schiff in 2008.

Born in 1979 in Voronezh, in southwestern Russia, where he attended one of the country's special music schools for gifted children, Kirill Gerstein came to the US at 14 as the youngest student ever to attend Boston's Berklee College of Music. During his years concentrating on jazz piano there, he continued to practice classical piano repertoire, and attended the Boston University program at Tanglewood for two summers. Afterward, he decided to focus mainly on classical music, and moved to New York City to attend the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Solomon Mikowsky. He earned Bachelors and Masters of Music degrees by the age of 20, and continued post-graduate studies with Dmitri Bashkirov and Ferenc Rados in Budapest.

Kirill Gerstein received the First Prize at the 2001 Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition in Tel Aviv and was a recipient of a 2002 Gilmore Young Artist Award. He became an American citizen in 2003, and was a Carnegie Hall "Rising Star" in 2005-06. He is currently professor of piano at the Musikhochschule in Stuttgart, Germany.

Season 2009-2010