



ALEXANDRA DARIESCU

Piano

Pianist and creator of *“The Nutcracker and I”*, Alexandra Dariescu stands out as an original voice whose fundamental values are shining a light on gender equality in both her concerto and recital programmes as well as championing lesser-known works, advocating for diversity and inclusion.

In demand as a soloist worldwide, Dariescu has performed with orchestras such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, Oslo Philharmonic, European Union Youth Orchestra, Utah Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Symphonique de Québec and Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras, among others. Conductors she worked with include Alexandre Bloch, Michael Francis, Fabien Gabel, Ben Gernon, Cristian Măcelaru, Jun Märkl, Vasily Petrenko, André de Ridder, Clemens Schuldt, Alexander Shelley and John Storgårds.

Highlights of Dariescu’s 2021/22 season include the US premiere of the newly discovered Piano Concerto by George Enescu for her debut with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as well as the US premiere of Nadia Boulanger’s *Fantaisie* for her Houston Symphony Orchestra debut. Further debuts include Basel Chamber Orchestra for her return to the Enescu Festival, Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra, Lapland Chamber Orchestra and Turku Philharmonic Orchestra for the Finnish premiere of Boulanger’s *Fantaisie*. Dariescu also gives the German and Polish premieres of Enescu’s Concerto with the Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen and the Neue Lausitzer Philharmonie. In recital, Dariescu juxtaposes Paris in the 1920s with today’s musical scene in a fascinating journey featuring Camille Pepin, Lili Boulanger, Germaine Tailleferre, Betsy Jolas and Missy Mazzoli alongside Debussy and Ravel.

In 2017, Dariescu took the world by storm with her successful piano recital production *“The Nutcracker and I”*, an original ground-breaking multimedia performance for piano solo with dance and digital animation, which has since enjoyed international acclaim and has drawn thousands of young audiences into concert halls across Europe, Australia, China, the Emirates and the US, realising Dariescu’s vision of building bridges and making classical music more accessible to the wider public. In the 2020/21 season, Dariescu also premiered the revised Covid-safe version, *“The Nutcracker – reimagined”* for solo piano, brass ensemble, narrator, and dance with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, making it one of the very few Nutcracker performances to happen in 2020.

Dariescu has released eight CDs to critical acclaim, the latest disc being her Decca recording with Angela Gheorghiu. The discography includes her Trilogy of Preludes on Champs Hill Records with complete preludes by Boulanger/Messiaen/Faure, Chopin/Dutilleux and Shostakovich/Szymanowski as well as Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra/Darrell Ang (Signum Records), in addition to *“The Nutcracker and I”* audio book.

Dariescu has been mentored by Sir Andrés Schiff and Dame Imogen Cooper. After graduating from the Royal Northern College of Music with the Gold Medal, where she studied with Nelson Goerner, Alexander Melnikov, Mark Ray and Dina Parakhina, Dariescu pursued her Masters at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Ronan O’Hora. A former artist of the Young Classical Artists Trust, Dariescu was a Laureate at the Verbier Festival Academy and received the UK’s Women of the Future Award in the Arts and Culture category. In 2017, Dariescu was appointed patron of Music in Lyddington, Cultural Ambassador of Romania and Honorary Associate Artist of the Royal Northern College of Music. In spring 2018, Dariescu received the ‘Officer of the Romanian Crown’ from the Royal Family and was selected as a Young European Leader by Friends of Europe. In 2020, Dariescu received the Order ‘Cultural Merit’ in the rank of Knight by the Romanian President and became an Associated Member of the RNCM.