

## PAAVALI JUMPPANEN

### Piano

Finnish pianist Paavali Jumppanen's performance was called "fresh and exciting" with "immense power and an extraordinary range of colors" at his New York debut presented by Young Concert Artists in 2001 in the 92nd Street Y's renowned Kaufman Concert Hall. Mr. Jumppanen has since toured extensively in the United States including performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston where he has performed frequently since his 2001 debut there. Additional New York appearances have included the Metropolitan Museum, Morgan Library, and Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall; his New York concerto debut with the New York Chamber Symphony in 2002 was under maestro Gerard Schwarz at Alice Tully Hall.

Having dedicated much time to exploring music of the Viennese Classical Period, Mr. Jumppanen has often performed the complete cycle of Beethoven Piano Sonatas. Of one recital, the Boston Globe reported that "the sheer, overflowing energy of his musicianship held one's attention throughout this impressive performance and the result was a bracing and enjoyable reminder of how path-breaking Beethoven's music was." Mr. Jumppanen recently completed a multi-year project of recording the cycle: the first CD was released in 2014 (Ondine) to critical acclaim; further volumes have been released during 2015 and 2016, and the 5<sup>th</sup> volume is due for release at the end of 2016. Paavali Jumppanen is also recording the complete Debussy Preludes in July/August 2016, for release later in 2017.

Recent performances have included all five Piano Concertos by Beethoven with the Lahti Symphony Orchestra and a tour "down under" with the Australian Chamber Orchestra performing piano quintets by Dvorak and Shostakovich. During the 2014-15 season Mr. Jumppanen returns to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston in continuance of a two-year project focused on the music of Schumann and Stockhausen. In addition to recitals in Switzerland, Austria, and elsewhere, he performs as soloist in the Beethoven Fourth Piano Concerto on a national tour with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. In 2016 Mr. Jumppanen returned to Australia for the 7<sup>th</sup> time for a one month residency at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) in Melbourne.

2015 marked the 150th anniversary of his countryman Jean Sibelius as well as the 90th birthday of the French composer Pierre Boulez, both important composers. Mr. Jumppanen has championed Boulez and recorded the three Piano Sonatas at the composer's request and under his guidance. The recording (DGG, 2005) earned praise in London's Guardian which pronounced it "the best recorded disc of Boulez's piano music so far." The music of both Sibelius and Boulez were featured recurrently in recital programs over the course of 2015.

Mr. Jumppanen spent the 2011-12 season in residence at the Music Department of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was able to realize his longtime aspiration to study musicology and music theory while deepening his understanding of Viennese 18th century music. During the 2010-11 season Mr. Jumppanen performed the complete cycle of Mozart Piano Sonatas at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. A recording with violinist Corey Cerovsek of the complete Beethoven Sonatas for Piano & Violin received the Midem Prize of Cannes as the best chamber music disc of 2008.

Paavali Jumppanen was born in Espoo. In 1979, at the age of five, he began piano lessons at the Music Institute. He entered the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki in 1992. From 1997 to 2000, he studied with Krystian Zimerman at the Basel Music Academy in Switzerland where he also studied the organ, fortepiano, and clavichord. Russian born pianist Konstantin Bogino has served as an important mentor to Mr. Jumppanen throughout his studies and career.

Since winning first prize in Helsinki's Maj Lind Competition in 1994, Mr. Jumppanen has become regular soloist of Finland's leading orchestras. He frequently appears with the Helsinki Philharmonic, Finnish Radio, and Lahti symphony orchestras. He has also played extensively in Europe, Japan, and Australia, appearing with the Melbourne Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Stuttgart Philharmonic, and BBC Symphony Orchestra. He has performed at numerous festivals including Finland's Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival and the La Roque d'Anthéron Festival in France. In 2015 Mr. Jumppanen assumed the position of artistic director for PianoEspoo festival, the widely-known international piano festival in his native Finland.

Mr. Jumppanen frequently performs the work of contemporary composers as well as the major repertoire of the avant-garde. He regularly commissions works from Finnish composers. Mr. Jumppanen has given a number of performances of Olivier Messiaen's virtuosic concert-length solo piano cycle, *Vingt Regards Sur l'Enfant Jésus*. His 2010 performance of the work at Boston's Gardner Museum was selected as one of the top ten performances of the year by the Boston Globe which reported it be "a rare wedding of intellectual penetration, coloristic imagination, and sheer virtuoso firepower." - 2015-2016 season