

George - Emmanuel Lazaridis

Short Biography, September 2023

Pianist, composer, mentor and founder of new, significant cultural institutions, George - Emmanuel Lazaridis was born in Greece, in 1978.

He showed unusual musical abilities from a very young age and was soon hailed as a child prodigy by the Greek and International press. He started appearing in public from the age of eight years old and has since received a plethora of international prizes, honorary awards and scholarships including the Onasis, Hattori and Leventis Foundation. A graduate of the Royal College of Music and the Trinity Laban Conservatory in London, he was mentored by Yonty Solomon, Douglas Finsh and Domna Evnouhidou, while he also worked alongside Alfred Brendel, Ruth Nye, Paul Badura Skoda and Noretta Conci Leech.

During 35 years of constant presence on the international music scene, Lazaridis has enjoyed a flourishing career that has taken him from USA and Mexico to Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Egypt and the Middle East. He has conquered demanding audiences in some of the most prestigious venues world wide, such as the Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall, Musikverein etc, with his performances being described as "special enough to be beyond comparison" (BBC Music Magazine, Adrian Jack).

Lazaridis has collaborated as soloist with world class orchestras such as the St Petersburg Philharmonic, Hamburg Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic and many more, under the direction of Sir Neville Marriner, Ingo Metzmacher, Yuri Temirkanov and other legendary conductors. He has also performed in chamber music concerts alongside renowned ensembles such as the Medici Quartet, the Ysaye Quartet, the Vienna Octet etc. His various CD releases have been rapturously received, with five-star reviews from the International Press, and were often recommended as instrumental discs of the month. Recent recordings were selected within the top 50 best releases of the decade by "The Pianist" and ranked amongst the best of historical performances, alongside keyboard giants such as Sviatoslav Richter and Claudio Arrau.

Composition commissions have included Europa Cantat International Choir Festival, Cultural Capital of Europe Organization, Birmingham New Arts Festival, Athens Festival, Prefecture of Central Macedonia, Wigmore Hall, Princeton University etc

GEL is co-founder of the ADAP Association and the Music-Village International Festival, as well as a member of the renowned 4 Pianos ensemble, alongside Giannis Vakarelis, Cyprien Katsaris and Achilleas Wastor. He has given Masterclasses at Trinity Laban, Birmingham City University, Castellon Music Academy, Manhattan School of Music and many more. He taught at the Greek State Conservatory for four years and has recently been appointed full-time Assistant Professor at the University of Macedonia.

He served as Artistic Director of the Thessaloniki Concert Halls Organization (Megaro) from 2010 until 2019, where he led the creation of new institutions such as the Megaro Children's Choir Festival and an el-sistema inspired Youth Symphony Orchestra, "MOYSA", with the support of the Niarchos Foundation. He has also served as music director of the Demetria Festival (2011-2013) and general director of the State Conservatory of Greece (2019-2020).