

Biography | February 2024

Cédric Pescia, born in Lausanne, studied with Christian Favre in Lausanne, later with Dominique Merlet in Geneva and with Klaus Hellwig in Berlin. He continued his education at the “International Piano Academy” at Lake Como (Italy) as student of Dimitri Bashkirov, Leon Fleisher, William Grant Naboré, Menahem Pressler, Andreas Staier and Fou Ts’ong. Furthermore the young pianist got impulses from Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Daniel Barenboim, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Ivan Klánsky, Christian Zacharias, and the Alban Berg Quartet.

In 2002, he won one of the most prestigious competitions of the world, the Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition” in Salt Lake City, in which more than 500 pianists from 40 countries took part. In 2007, Cédric Pescia was honoured with the Prix Musique de la Fondation Vaudoise pour la culture. He was also a prize-winner at the Bourse de la Fondation Leenaards in Lausanne.

Concert tours have taken him throughout Europe, China, South America, North Africa and in the USA. He has performed at the Berlin Philharmonie, the Berlin Konzerthaus, the Hamburg Laieszhalle, Kölner Philharmonie, the Mozarteum Salzburg, Tonhalle Zurich and Tonhalle Düsseldorf, Carnegie Hall New York, Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, Wigmore Hall London and Frick Collection New York, Cité de la musique Paris, Vienna Konzerthaus, in Istanbul and in Moscow. He has appeared in leading music festivals such as: Prague Spring Festival, Lucerne Festival, Menuhin Festival-Gstaad, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Klavierfestival Ruhr, Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, Davos Festival, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Rheingau Musik Festival, Busoni Festival Bolzano, Festival de Radio France et Montpellier, International Piano Festival in Miami, Festival Chopin à Bagatelle, Festival d’Eté de Bordeaux, Les Muséiques Basel and Schubertiade Hohenems. Upcoming engagements will take him to Vienna, Leipzig and London.

His orchestral appearances have been with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, the Utah Symphony, the Festival Strings of Luzern, the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, the Ensemble Oriol Berlin, the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, the Klassische Philharmonie Bonn, the Mendelssohn Kammerorchester Leipzig, the Camerata Bern, the Basler Kammerorchester and the Göttinger Symphonie. On a concert tour he performed Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 17 with the Orchestre de Lille (L. Zagrosek).

In addition to his activities as a soloist, his love for chamber music regularly leads to performances with other eminent musicians such as the Signum Quartett. A long-standing artistic collaboration connects Cédric Pescia with violinist Nurit Stark, who is sponsored by the Forberg-Schneider Foundation.

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His debut CD with Bach's Goldberg Variations (Claves Records) and his second recording with works by Schumann (Claves Records) received much praise and acclaim from the press. A recording with works by Couperin, Messiaen and Debussy, a duo recording dedicated to Busoni and Enescu (Nurit Stark - violin), and the last three piano sonatas by Beethoven were released for the same label. A CD with works by Schumann (Claves), a Cage CD (aeon) and a Messiaen CD (Genuin) followed. Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier and the Art of the Fugue, recorded on an unequally tuned Steinway, also appeared on aeon. On la dolce volta he released a CD of Schubert's late piano works for two and four hands (with Philippe Cassard), as well as works for violin/viola (Nurit Stark) and piano by Clara and Robert Schumann (claves).

His most recent releases include a CD of works by Robert Schumann, Bach's "Das Wohltemperierte Klavier" and most recently Beethoven's 9th Symphony for two pianos with Philippe Cassard.

Cédric Pescia is founding member and artistic director of the Lausanne chamber music series Ensemble enScène. He served as a jury member in the Clara Haskil Competition in Vevey and is teaching master classes in the USA and in Europe, amongst others at the prestigious Accademia Pianistica Internazionale "Incontri col Maestro" in Imola, Italy.

In 2012 Cédric Pescia was appointed professor for piano at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Genève.

Short version

Cédric Pescia first studied in Lausanne and Berlin and then at the "International Piano Foundation" on Lake Como. He won one of the most prestigious piano competitions in the world, the "Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition" in Salt Lake City, was awarded the Prix Musique de la Fondation Vaudoise pour la culture and is a prizewinner of the Fondation Leenaards in Lausanne.

Cédric Pescia performs with renowned chamber music partners on all the well-known stages in Europe and in the USA with dramaturgically very cleverly put together combinations of works.

For Claves Records, AEON, La Dolce Volta, BIS, Genuin he has recorded works by J. S. Bach, F. Couperin, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Debussy, Busoni, Enescu, Messiaen, Cage, Suslin, Gubaidulina, CDs which have been highly praised by the international press.

Since 2012, Cédric Pescia has been working at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Genève as a professor of piano.