

SABINE WEYER SHEDS LIGHT ON FORGOTTEN RUSSIAN COMPOSER WITH NEW ALBUM OF WORKS BY NIKOLAI MIASKOVSKY AND LEADING FRENCH COMPOSER NICOLAS BACRI



Sabine Weyer © Vito Labalestra

Due for release in January 2021

Pianist Sabine Weyer is set to release ‘Mysteries’, her fourth album on the ARS Produktion label, featuring works by Nikolai Miaskovsky and Nicolas Bacri. Recorded in Germany this August, the album is set to be released in January 2021, marking the 140th anniversary of the birth of Nikolai Miaskovsky, and Nicolas Bacri's 60th birthday.

Named by International Piano Magazine as one of ‘*the brightest of a new generation of Luxembourgish pianists*’, this album follows Weyer’s celebrated release of Shostakovich works with the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie under Erich Polz. ‘Mysteries’ charts Weyer’s new discoveries of piano works by Miaskovsky, paired with pieces by French composer Nicolas Bacri.

Sabine Weyer said, “*It was Nicolas Bacri who introduced me to the music of Miaskovsky, and I’ve been fascinated ever since. Although the two composers come from different times and different countries, there is a combined passion and clarity of form that I feel corresponds with my own personality, balancing the rational with irrational, passion with reason, and the sentimental with intellectual.*”

Nikolai Miaskovsky (April 1881 – August 1950) was a Russian and Soviet composer who studied at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory as a student of Lyadov and Rimsky-Korsakov, during which time he became firm friends with fellow student Sergei Prokofiev. In spite of his limited success against his contemporaries, recent testimonies have declared Miaskovsky as the founder of Soviet symphonism, and one of the key musical bridges between Russian classics and Soviet music.

Weyer’s recording features three works by Miaskovsky, starting with his Piano Sonata No. 2 which was written in 1912, just one year after graduating from the Conservatory, alongside his Piano Sonata No. 3 and Eccentricities. In her booklet notes, Weyer explains that in the piano sonatas “*the*

composer's anxiety and anger about the political and human situation in his country is well reflected".

Nicolas Bacri (b. 1961) is one of the leading French composers of his generation, and a great advocator of Miaskovsky's. Inspired by his music, Bacri's *Sonata Impetuosa* was dedicated to the composer, and provides a key link between the two composers on the album. Inspired by his French predecessors Debussy and Ravel, as well as Russian composers, Bacri has composed over 150 works, including symphonies, string quartets and solo piano works.

This innovative programming is archetypal of Weyer's thirst for discovering new music. Following successes in her interpretation of Bach and Mendelsohn's works, this recording takes the pianist in a new direction, shedding light on two fascinating and often overlooked composers.

Track listing

- 1. Nikolai Miaskovsky** Sonata No. 2, Opus 13 in f sharp minor
- 2. Nicolas Bacri** Sonata No.2, Opus 105
- 3. Nikolai Miaskovsky** Sonata No. 3, Opus 19 in c minor
- 4. Nicolas Bacri** Sonata No.3, Opus 122 '*Sonata impetuosa*' dedicated to the memory of Miaskovsky
- 5. Nikolai Miaskovsky** Eccentricities Opus 25 *Andante semplice e narrante*
- 6. Nikolai Miaskovsky** Eccentricities Opus 25 *Allegro tenebroso e fantastico*
- 7. Nikolai Miaskovsky** Eccentricities Opus 25 *Largo e pesante*
- 8. Nikolai Miaskovsky** Eccentricities Opus 25 *Quieto (lento)*
- 9. Nikolai Miaskovsky** Eccentricities Opus 25 *Allegretto vivace*
- 10. Nikolai Miaskovsky** Eccentricities Opus 25 *Molto sostenuto e languido*
- 11. Nicolas Bacri** Fantasie

Ends

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About Sabine Weyer

Born in Luxembourg in 1988, Sabine Weyer is a pianist who has received international critical acclaim in recent years. Following training in her home country (Prix Supérieur at the Conservatory of Esch-sur-Alzette in 2007), then in France (CRR in Metz, prix de perfectionnement à l'unanimité du jury in the class of Bernard Lerouge in 2007) and finally in Brussels (Koninklijk Conservatorium,

postmaster diploma in the class of Serbian pianist Alexandar Madzar), the pianist began an international career, constantly surprising audiences with the intensity, richness and clarity of her playing. Weyer has produced four albums, all praised by the international press and often receiving awards (« Supersonic Award » for Bach to the Future, « Pasticcio prize » from the Austrian radio ORF for « A light in the dark », nominations for « International Classical Music Awards » and « Opus Klassik » in Germany).

Guided by pianists such as Oxana Yablonskaya, Aquiles Delle Vigne, Vassil Guenov, Mario Patuzzi, Michel Béroff, Françoise Buffet-Arsenijevic, Weyer has developed a strong musical personality, characterized by a tremendous sensitivity and a huge curiosity for the arts in general.

Her career as a concert pianist has brought Sabine all over the world, both as a soloist as well as with chamber music groups: Philharmonie in Berlin (with the Camerata Berlin in 2017), Tonhalle in Zurich (with Pavel Vernikov and the Kurpfälzisches Kammerorchester in 2018), Shanghai Concert Hall in 2016, Salle Cortot in Paris in 2015, the Philharmonie de Luxembourg, Moscow Conservatory, Royal Albert Hall in London (for the prize ceremony of the « Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition » where Weyer was awarded first place).

Since 2015, Sabine has been professor for piano at the Conservatory of Luxembourg-city and she is very actively engaged with teaching younger generations. As a pedagogue, she has often been invited to teach at masterclasses, such as at the Scriabine Summer Academy in Italy, the Beijing Normal University in China and the European Summer Music Academy in Djakova/Kosovo.

Among her main chamber music partners are famous musicians such as Aleksey Semenenko, Pavel Vernikov, Svetlana Makarova, Alena Baeva, Gary Hoffman, Yury Revich, Mindaugas Backus and Julien Beaudiment.

Very much engaged in the field of contemporary music, Weyer has a strong working relationship with several of today's leading composers, such as Nicolas Bacri, whose works she integrates regularly to her concert programs.

<http://www.sabine-weyer.com/>