

## **Miroslav Sekera, piano (CZE)**

ranks among the preeminent members of the young generation of Czech pianists. His exceptional talent was first spotted at the early age of three years by the distinguished educator, Professor Zdena Janžurová. Miroslav was a child prodigy who was ready to take up at that tender age, along with piano also the study of violin with Professors Zdeněk Vyoral and Josef Novák. Very soon, he began to reap triumphs not only in concert appearances, but also in numerous junior performing competitions, as both pianist, violinist and chamber player. He then made an unforgettable experience which has remained imprinted in his memory to this day: namely, participation in the making of the marvellous film, *Amadeus*. As it happened, the film's director, Miloš Forman, was looking for a child actor to impersonate Mozart in his early years. The six-years-old Mirek proved the ideal choice, thanks to his unique virtuoso skills at playing violin and piano. Those who have seen the movie will surely recall the little boy displaying incredible bravura performing spinet and violin blindfold... Some time after that experience, Mirek found himself confronted with the definitive choice of the instrument on which to concentrate fully in his further study. The piano prevailed, and there followed years of study at the Basic Art School in Prague's Voršilská Street, from where he advanced to the Prague Conservatory's class of Professor Eva Boguniová, all through his studies there simultaneously frequenting also the class of Professor Martin Ballý. He then pursued his schooling at the Academy of Music in Prague, with Associate Professor Miroslav Langer. He graduated in 1999, as the Academy's best solo piano graduate. While still studying at the two schools, in 1991, he won first prize in the Chopin Competition at Mariánské Lázně. In the following year, he received first prize from the conservatory students contest in Pardubice. His many awards won in prestigious interpreting competitions at various points of his career have included first prize from the prestigious Chopin Competition at Mariánské Lázně (1991), first prize from the conservatory students contest in Pardubice (1992), first prize from the competition organized by the Prague Academy of Music (1999), where he also received a scholarship from Yamaha: as well as second prize from the international competition at Gaillard, France (2000), and first prize from the Johannes Brahms International Competition at Portschach, Austria (2002). Miroslav Sekera makes concert appearances in the Czech Republic and on the international circuit, not only as an outstanding soloist, but likewise as a chamber ensemble player. Since his student years, he has given many full-length recitals in Prague, as well as in other venues in the Czech Republic and abroad. In 2006, he was released a solo CD by Multisonic support of Czech Music Foundation with parts J. Brahms, D. Scarlatti, M. Moszkowski. For contemporary Boston composer Joseph Summer recorded three CDs issued by record company Albany Records and Navona Records. In 2013 he recorded with violinist Josef Špaček CD for Supraphon. He regularly collaborates with Czech Radio. For the second time appeared as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra FOK under the baton of Jiří Kout. He regularly collaborates with the mezzo-soprano Dagmar Pecková.