

ALEXANDER KRICHEL



MEDIA KIT

Alexander Krichel

Pianist and ECHO Klassik prize winner Alexander Krichel is known for his captivating interpretations of the most demanding works of piano literature. From Beethoven and Liszt to Rachmaninov and Prokofiev. Born in Hamburg in 1989, the keyboard virtuoso fascinates with the contrasts he unites - intellect meets musicality, sense meets sensuality. In his playing, he combines analytical clarity with fiery emotion. Contrasting effective keyboard thunder with soft, luminous cantilenas is one of his trademarks. "Cold fingers, cool head and hot heart" - in keeping with the motto of the Neuhaus Piano School, from which piano legends such as Sviatoslav Richter, Emil Gilels and Radu Lupu originate, the exceptional artist lets his heart guide him on stage.

With his current album Alexander Krichel celebrates his debut with Berlin Classics. He combines Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition", a central work of piano literature, with a rarely heard gem by the Romanian composer George Enescu. Enescu's 2nd piano suite embeds baroque formal language in romantic-impressionist timbres and enchants with a magnificent palette of colours.

Even during the long Corona lockdown, Alexander Krichel found his way to his audience with unusual actions and streaming concerts. In May 2020, he initiated the world's first classical music concert in a drive-in cinema, which was broadcast by WDR. A short time later, his audience followed him in a video diary from a Hong Kong hotel suite where he had to observe a 14-day quarantine before a concert. For Beethoven's 250th birthday, Krichel and the Meiningen Hofkapelle brought Beethoven's 5th Piano Concerto to the stage of the Staatstheater and via live stream to viewers from all over the world, and in the Essen Philharmonie he also played a solo recital with Beethoven, Schumann and Liszt for an online-only audience.

After all the performances via live stream, Alexander Krichel is now all the more delighted to be able to communicate live with his audience again, as he did most recently in a concert for BR when he played Mussorgsky's "Pictures". Not only the audience was enthusiastic, the Süddeutsche Zeitung attested Krichel "an unerring pianistic feeling for sound. Not all great pianists have that. But the really great ones, they do."

Web and Social Media:



www.alexanderkrichel.de



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[@Alexander Krichel](https://www.youtube.com/AlexanderKrichel)

Impressions:

[Recording at Berlin Philharmonie](#) (Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition & Dvorak: Piano Quintet No. 2 with Berlin Philharmonic String Quartet)

[Live Recording at Essen Philharmonie](#) (Beethoven: Sonata Op. 31 No. 2 "Tempest", Schumann: Kreisleriana, Liszt: Venezia e Napoli)

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Biography

Alexander enjoyed his training with two of the greatest Russian pianists of the present day. In Hanover, he was the last student of Vladimir Krainev before graduating with the highest distinction from the Royal College of Music in London where he studied with Dmitri Alexeev.

During his career the artist developed a special relationship with Sergei Rachmaninov. The Russian composer's piano concertos are an important part of his repertoire. The live recording of the Second Piano Concerto with Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra under Michael Sanderling, together with the recording of Maurice Ravel's three major piano cycles, are amongst the highlights of his discography, which comprises a total of seven albums. After five CD productions with Sony Classical, Alexander Krichel celebrates his debut with Berlin Classics in 2021 with his album of works by Enescu and Mussorgsky.

Alexander Krichel calls both national and international stages home: he has given concerts at Berlin Philharmonie and Konzerthaus , Hamburg Elbphilharmonie and Laeiszhalle , Munich Herkulesaal and Prinzregententheater , Cologne Philharmonie, Tonhalle Zurich, St. Martin in the Fields in London and at St. Petersburg Philharmonic. He has also been invited to London, New York City, Cape Town, Tokyo, Kyoto, St. Petersburg Mexico City, Oslo, Warsaw, Bucharest and many other cities.

In addition to appearances with the hr-Sinfonieorchester (Frankfurt Radio Symphony), Bamberger Symphoniker, Dresden Philharmonic, Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz and Bremen Philharmonic, he is also a welcome guest at Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, Festival Strings Lucerne, Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra and others. He has played with such renowned conductors as Jonathan Nott, Michael Sanderling, Gabriel Feltz, Wojciech Rajski, Markus Poschner, Andrew Litton and Ruben Gazarian. He also performs chamber music with the Shanghai String Quartet, the Goldmund Quartet and the Amaryllis Quartet.

He has inspired the audience at numerous festivals, including the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the Rheingau Music Festival, the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the Beethovenfest Bonn, the Schwetzingen Festspiele, the Kissinger Sommer, the "Piano aux Jacobins" and the Festival Internacional de Música de Marvão.

Alexander Krichel is not only a stage performer, he is also co-founder and artistic director of the award-winning festival "Kultur Rockt" and artistic director of the exclusive chamber music series "Kammermusik am Hochrhein". Since 2018 he has also been a permanent jury member of the Fanny Mendelssohn Förderpreis.

Away from the piano, Alexander Krichel is passionate about mathematics, natural sciences and foreign languages. He is involved in projects that give children and young people access to classical music and is involved in hospice charity work.

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For audio and video footage please send an e-mail to natalie@ruoss-communications.com.

Media quotes

„Krichel has an unerring pianistic feeling for sound. Not all great pianists have that. But the really great ones, they do“

Süddeutsche Zeitung about Mussorgskys „Pictures at an exhibition“

“A true performer who is able to combine intimate gentleness with swashbuckling access.“

Spiegel Online

„Krichel’s sophisticated playing is highly expressive and emotional. His warm piano sound is clear and full of poetry and artistry.“

Xinmin Evening News about his recital in Shanghai, China

“Alexander Krichel is probably one of the most polished pianists at the moment. His Beethoven sonatas are [...] designed as if under a microscope, as if each of his fingers had its own musical brain. Tempo and dynamics turn the piano sonatas into real psychological thrillers. [...] Typical Krichel: he combines intellect and feeling, head and heart.“

NDR Kultur about his recital at Elbphilharmonie Hamburg

“The way Alexander Krichel made this century concerto sound with apparently unlimited technical possibilities, thunderous outbursts and delicately luminous cantilenas was simply overwhelming. Here one felt something of the tremendous power of a man possessed, whose inner fire is controlled and directed by a clear consciousness on the other side.“

WAZ about the Beethoven’s 5th piano concerto with the Polish Chamber Philharmonic

“Alexander Krichel’s rendition of Enescu’s Second Piano Suite is one of the most accomplished recordings of this work. [...] In the Mussorgsky he lets every detail shine with great mastery. It is a highly virtuosic interpretation [...]“

Radio Romania Muzical about the album „Enescu & Mussorgsky“

“Pianistically and musically, Alexander Krichel owes nothing to these delicate pieces. He tackles the pictures with a great deal of risk and speed [...] an emotional rollercoaster ride.“

Bremen 2 about the album „Enescu & Mussorgsky“

“Amazingly light, calm, transparent. Even in the most agitated passages, his playing remains razor-sharp.“

Basler Zeitung about the album “An die ferne Geliebte“

„Krichel brings such earnestness and wonder to the rapture of Wagner’s heroine that we can’t help but succumb to his absorption.“

Gramophone about the album “An die ferne Geliebte“

“Alexander Krichel is one of Germany’s most talented pianists, and his name currently stands for one of the greatest success stories in the classical music industry. [...] The same pianist who had just conjured up the most delicate pianissimo dreams now creates a tremendous storm of sound in which the chords and swarms of notes just fly around your ears. [...]“

Piano News about the album „Rachmaninov“

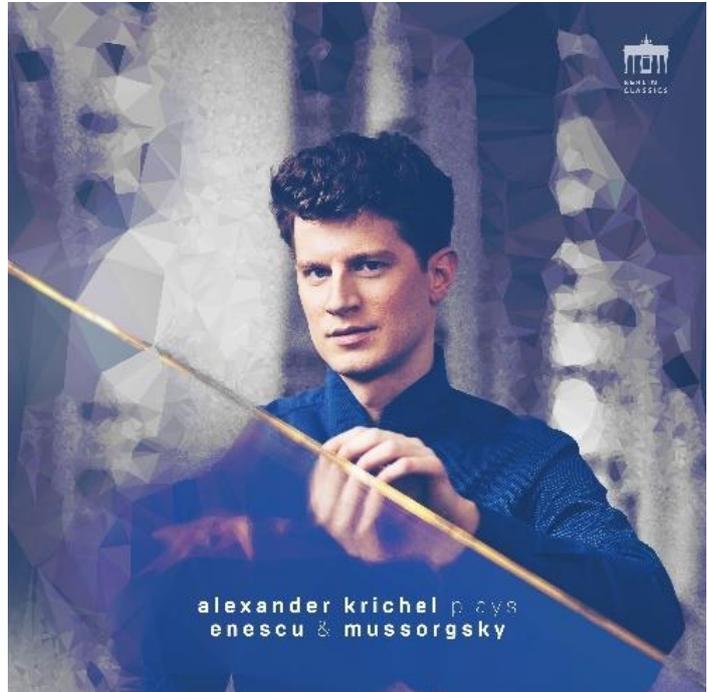
“The young German pianist Alexander Krichel’s fourth album [...] offers Ravel performances that are fit to stand alongside those of Osborne, Pogorelich and Argerich.“

International Piano Magazine about the album „Miroirs“

Discography

Enescu & Mussorgsky | 2021

For his first album with Berlin Classics Alexander Krichel has brought together a couple of heavyweights. He combines the “Pictures at an Exhibition” by Modest Mussorgsky, a central work of the piano literature, with a rarely heard gem by the Romanian composer George Enescu. Enescu’s Second Piano Suite enhances the formal language of the Baroque with Romantic and Impressionist timbres, and entrances the listener with a rich palette of tone colours. To round off the pro-gramme, Alexander Krichel plays another work by a composer from Russia’s “mighty handful”, the Nocturne from the Petite Suite by Alexander Borodin.



There’s no denying it: Krichel feels himself strongly drawn to the Russian repertoire. He

studied with two of the greatest Russian pianists of modern times: in Hanover, as Vladimir Krainev’s last student; and at the Royal College of Music in London, with Dmitri Alexeev. “I’ve long had Modest Mussorgsky’s ‘Pictures at an Exhibition’ in my repertoire, but now, this piano suite is exactly right with its strong sense of dedication,” says Krichel. “It would be hard to find another piano cycle that has such variety and places such comprehensive demands. Mussorgsky captures a whole cosmos in his ‘Pictures’. That links him with George Enescu, who in writing his Second Suite actually composed a tribute as well.

An die ferne Geliebte | 2019

Alexander Krichel plays piano works by Beethoven, Schumann, Wagner, Liszt and Kreisler in a fascinating programme full of “Liebesleid” (love’s sorrow) and “Liebesfreud” (love’s joy).

In 1816 Ludwig van Beethoven composed “An die ferne Geliebte”, the first song cycle in music history. Beethoven dedicated it to his friend and patron Joseph von Lobkowitz, who commissioned the work from him shortly after the death of his wife. With this song cycle in the piano transcription by Franz Liszt, Alexander Krichel opens his solo album of the same name, “An die ferne Geliebte”, which revolves around love and longing in music. In addition, he has recorded two more piano transcriptions, Richard Wagner’s “Isoldens Liebestod” and Fritz Kreislers “Liebesleid – Liebesfreud”, by Liszt and Sergej Rachmaninov respectively. With Robert Schumann’s “Symphonic Etudes” he has furthermore included one of the most demanding piano works of the Romantic period.



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Miroirs | 2017

Alexander Krichel has always been interested in the piano works of the French composer Maurice Ravel. As a young student in Hanover, he played Ravel's "Gaspard de la nuit", one of the most difficult piano works ever written. And in recent years, the Hamburg native and ECHO Klassik prize winner has given numerous concerts with Ravel's two piano concertos.

For his fourth album for Sony Classical, entitled "Miroirs", Alexander Krichel has recorded three highly demanding and musically different piano cycles with which Ravel helped shape musical impressionism. The album features the piano suite "Le Tombeau de Couperin", completed in 1917, the "Miroirs" (1904/05) and "Gaspard de la nuit" (1908). For Alexander Krichel, these works are fascinating examples of Ravel's contrasting expressive palette and moods which contrasts brightness with darkness and light with shadow.



Rachmaninov | 2015

For his fourth CD, Alexander Krichel chose one of the most famous piano concertos of the late Romantic period. With the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Michael Sanderling, he plays Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, which with its passionate, poetic music and irresistible melodies is probably still his most popular work today. Charmingly combined with Rachmaninoff's multifaceted Moments musicaux op. 16 for solo piano – their name was inspired by Franz Schubert's collection of musical miniatures of the same name – Alexander Krichel presents a programme that places the highest demands on the performer, both technically and artistically.



Chopin, Hummel, Mozart | 2014

On his second album for Sony, Krichel again shows his qualities with a varied and unique selection of works for piano and orchestra. Right at the beginning of the CD is Chopin's beautiful and rarely heard "Rondo à la Krakowiak". "Oberon's Magic Horn" by Mozart's pupil and also an acquaintance of Chopin, Johann Nepomuk Hummel, is a real discovery.

With the 12th Piano Concerto from the time of his early Viennese concerts, Krichel presents a popular work by Mozart in brilliant freshness. The Chopin Variations on one of the most famous themes from Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" form a virtuoso conclusion to the programme.



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Frühlingsnacht | 2013

On his Sony debut release “Frühlingsnacht” Alexander Krichel presents romantic songs and song arrangements by Schubert, Schumann and Mendelssohn, including the famous “Auf den Flügeln des Gesanges”, as well as other works of German Romanticism: Mendelssohn’s brilliant “Variations sérieuses”, five of his “Songs without Words” and four songs for pianoforte by Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel. He concludes the technical firework that also features the feared Liszt transcription of Schubert’s “Erlkönig” with the Rondo brillante “La Gaiété” by Carl Maria von Weber.



Insights | 2011

For his debut album “Insights”, Alexander Krichel focuses less on virtuosity in his Liszt recordings than on internalised “insight” into the music: “The work that awakened my love for Liszt’s music was his Second Ballade. When I played this piece for the first time at the age of 14, it was one of those moments when I realised that I could not live without music. I firmly believe that the deeper musical value of the works I chose for my recordings is often underestimated and that Liszt’s personality is still too little questioned. On the basis of this assessment and the special personal bond that I have felt between myself and this music from the very beginning, I dare, as a 21-year-old pianist, to record my own Liszt CD on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Franz Liszt’s birth.” (Alexander Krichel)

