

Univ. Prof. Libor Novacek BMus, MMus

Libor Novacek was born in Prague, Czech Republic, and his early studies were at Teplice Conservatoire. In 1998 he was awarded a full scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, graduating with a MMus and a Fellowship. He studied with Professor Joan Havill and participated in masterclasses with Lazar Berman, Murray Perahia, John Perry, Jean Efflam Bavouzet, Dmitri Bashkirov, Dominique Merlet, Leon Fleisher and others. During his studies in London he won numerous national and international awards and was recipient of several major scholarships.

Internationally recognised for his interpretations of Liszt, Brahms and Janacek, Libor Novacek's playing is said to possess 'exceptional poetic verve and inwardness' and his recordings (Landor Records, UK) are said to have 'set new benchmarks' and offer 'compellingly beautiful and narrative performances'.

Four CDs to date have received outstanding reviews in the classical music press: Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage – Italie* and *Mephisto Waltz*, was Editor's Choice in Gramophone Magazine and awarded the 'Diplôme d'Honneur' by Liszt Society in Budapest. His recording of music by Brahms marked him as an 'artist of vision and phenomenal sound control, offering readings of radiant sensitivity'. It was highly praised in the Guardian, Gramophone and International Record Review and was selected as the BBC Magazine's 'Instrumental Choice' in August 2008. Libor's latest CD featuring works by Liszt (*Années de Pèlerinage- Suisse* and *Consolations*), received the greatest critical acclaim, including 5 stars in the Guardian, International Record Review, Gramophone and Pianonews.

Libor is sought after as a recitalist and chamber musician and the founding member of the Prague Piano Trio. He also gives masterclasses and lecture recitals. His performances have taken him on major international concert stages (Barbican Centre, Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall in London, Rudolfinum in Prague, Hamburger Musikhalle, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Kennedy Centre in Washington DC) and have performed on tours and in festivals throughout the USA, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, India, Spain, Germany, Italy, France, Czech Republic and others.

Currently, Libor is Professor of Piano at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Graz in Austria and is also Professor of piano and chamber music at the Prague Conservatoire.