



Iveta Apkalna Organist

Latvian organist Iveta Apkalna is considered one of the leading instrumentalists in the world. Since 2017 she has served as the titular organist of the Klais organ at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Germany. For the January 2017 opening of the hall she took part in the two world premieres of the evening: Wolfgang Rihm's *Triptychon und Spruch in memoriam Hans Henny Jahnn* with Thomas Hengelbrock and the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and Jörg Widmann's *ARCHE* with Kent Nagano and the Philharmonic State Orchestra Hamburg. In September 2018 Berlin Classics released the album "Light & Dark", the first solo album recorded on the Klais organ at the Elbphilharmonie.

Since Iveta Apkalna's debut with the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of Claudio Abbado in 2007 she has performed with a number of the world's top orchestras including the Bavarian Radio Symphony, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. She has collaborated with renowned conductors such as the late Mariss Jansons, Marek Janowski, Kent Nagano, Thomas Hengelbrock, Gustavo Dudamel, Sir Antonio Pappano and Andris Nelsons and frequently appeared at the Lucerne Festival, Rheingau Musik Festival, Ludwigsburg Castle Festival and Schleswig-Holstein Festival.

Iveta Apkalna regularly performs in Europe's, North America's and China's most renowned concert venues. In October 2018 Iveta Apkalna inaugurated the new Klais organ at the opening concerts of the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts in Taiwan, where she also recorded her latest solo album for Berlin Classics in January 2020 slated for release in fall of 2020. Since 2019 Ms. Apkalna has been "Artist in Residence" of the Konzertkirche Neubrandenburg, whose instrument was developed in 2017 by the Berlin organ manufacturer Karl Schuke and the Bonn organ builder Johannes Klais in collaboration with Iveta Apkalna.

Iveta Apkalna is dedicated to contemporary music and performs works by Naji Hakim, Ēriks Ešēnvalds, Arturs Maskats or Thierry Escaich. Together with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam she presented the world premiere of *Multiversum*, a commissioned composition of Péter Eötvös, during an extensive Europe tour in Autumn 2017. Pascal Dusapin's work *Waves* for organ and orchestra was premiered by Iveta Apkalna in January 2020 together with the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra under the baton of Kent Nagano.

Throughout her career, Iveta Apkalna has earned international recognition for honours and competitions. In 2018 and in 2020 she awarded the "Latvian Grand Music Award", the most prestigious award in music in Latvia, in the category "Concert of the Year". On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Latvia, Iveta Apkalna was awarded the "Order of the Three Stars", the highest civilian order awarded for meritorious service to Latvia by the state president. Furthermore, she was appointed cultural ambassador of Latvia by receiving the "Excellence Award in Culture 2015" from the Latvian Ministry of Culture.

French-German TV network ARTE broadcast in 2008 a documentary about her titled "Dancing with the Organ". Iveta Apkalna became the first organist to receive the title of "Best Performing Artist" award at the 2005 ECHO Klassik.

Iveta Apkalna studied piano and organ at J. Vitols Latvian Academy of Music and continued her studies at the London Guildhall School of Music and Drama and at the National Academy of Music and Fine Arts in Stuttgart. Born in Latvia, Iveta Apkalna makes her home in Berlin and in Riga.