Lera Auerbach

- Biography -

One of the most widely performed composers of the new generation, **Lera Auerbach** is the youngest composer on the roster of Hamburg's prestigious international music publishing company Hans Sikorski, home to Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Schnittke, Gubaidulina and Kancheli. A virtuoso performer, Lera continues the great tradition of pianist-composers of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Auerbach's compositions have been commissioned and performed by a wide array of artists, orchestras and ballet companies including Gidon Kremer, the Kremerata Baltica, David Finckel, Wu Han, Vadim Gluzman, The Tokyo, Kuss and Petersen String Quartets, the SWR Stuttgart, NDR Hannover and Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestras, Hamburg State Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet. Lera Auerbach's music has also been commissioned and performed by leading Festivals throughout the world including Caramoor, Lucerne, Lockenhaus, Schwetzingen, Moscow Autumn, Les Musiques, Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein.

Last season highlights included the premiere Lera Auerbach's Symphony No.1 "Chimera", commissioned and performed by the Düsseldorf Symphony; Symphony No. 2 "Requiem for a Poet", commissioned and performed by the NDR Hannover Radio Philharmonic and the Double concerto for Violin and Piano commissioned and performed by the SWR Stuttgart Radio Philharmonic. This season will see, among others, the Hamburg State Ballet premiere of 'The Little Mermaid' a three act ballet, as well as the world premiere of "Findings", Quartet no.4 by the Parker Quartet, commissioned by the Caramoor International Music Festival and the New York premiere of "Primera Luz", Quartet No.2 by the Tokyo String Quartet.

An active performer, Lera Auerbach has appeared as solo pianist at such prestigious venues as the Bolshoi Saal of Moscow Conservatory, Tokyo's Opera City, New York's Lincoln Center, Munich's Herkulessaal, La Roque D'Antheron, Oslo's Konzerthaus, Chicago's Symphony Hall and Washington's Kennedy Center. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in May 2002 performing her own Suite for Violin, Piano and Orchestra with Gidon Kremer and the Kremerata Baltica. Lera Auerbach's music has been presented at Carnegie Hall each season since then. In 2005 she was awarded the prestigious Hindemith Prize by the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Germany. Also in 2005 she was awarded the "Förderpreis Deutschlandfunk".

Born in Chelyabinsk, a city in the Urals bordering Siberia, Lera Auerbach became one of the last artists to defect the Soviet Union during a concert tour in 1991 while still in her teens. She subsequently earned Bachelor and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School. In 2002 she graduated from the prestigious piano soloist program of the Hannover Hochschule für Musik.

In 2000 and 2004, Ms. Auerbach was invited by the International Johannes Brahms Foundation to live and work at the composer's former home in Baden-Baden as the Artist-in-Residence. In 2001 she was Composer-in-Residence and guest artist at the Lockenhaus Festival in Austria, where twelve of her works were premiered. She was subsequently invited to be Composer-in-Residence with the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa in Japan and the American Youth Symphony in Los Angeles from 2003 to 2005, and presently she is Composer-in-Residence at the Bremen Music Festival. In 2008 Lera Auerbach will assume the Composer-in-Residence position with Les Musiques festival in Basel, Switzerland.

In 1998 Ms. Auerbach was the first artist to be awarded the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. In 2007 Lera Auerbach was chosen by the World Economic Forum as a 'Young

Global Leader." She joins past and present recipients Joshua Bell, Lang Lang, Midori, Cecilia Bartoli and Hélène Grimeaud with this honor.

Auerbach's recognition is attributed not only to her musical activities but also to her writing. In 1996, she was named Poet of the Year by the International Pushkin Society. Her literary works include 5 volumes of poetry and prose and numerous contributions to Russian-language literary papers and magazines. Her poetry is taught in selected Russian schools and universities as required reading for modern literature courses.

Following the successfully received recording of Lera Auerbach's 24 Preludes for Violin and Piano in 2003, BIS released two additional CDs of Lera's works in 2006: Sonata No. 2 for violin and piano coupled with Lonely Suite – and 24 Preludes for Piano, 10 Dreams and Chorale, Fugue and Postlude performed by Lera herself, which subsequently received the coveted "Choc du Monde de la Musique". A new CD has also just been released on Capriccio featuring Lera Auerbach's String Quartet No. 3 performed by the Petersen Quartet. It is coupled with Lera's arrangement of Shostakovich's Six Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva. Also recently she released a CD of piano performances titled Tolstoy's Waltz with BIS Records and in 2007 will release performances of Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition and Prokofiev Sonata No. 7 on the Capriccio label.