



BIOGRAPHY

Steinway Artist Nicolas Costantinou is renowned for impressing audiences with his daring selection of repertoire, both old and new, and for his ability to collaborate with exceptional instrumental ensembles. Critics have hailed him as "...an artist of deep emotions, capable of performing music with his whole being and soul..." (Kaleva, 2003), while his interpretations have been described as "colossal" and "dramatic" (Dimitri Nicolau, 2002).

Nicolas has given numerous concerts in Austria, Cyprus, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Lebanon, Portugal, Turkey, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA. He has performed at London's Wigmore Hall, the Brahms-Saal of the Musikverein in Vienna, the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn, and the Grand Hall of the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. He is frequently invited to perform at international festivals across Europe, including the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, the Oulunsalo Soi Music Festival (Finland), the Gödöllő Chamber Music Festival (Hungary), and the Kypria Festival (Cyprus). His debut at Wigmore Hall was received with favourable reviews.

He has performed with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Russian Chamber Philharmonic St Petersburg, the Budapest Concert Orchestra, the Failoni Chamber Orchestra, and the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, collaborating with conductors such as Konrad von Abel, Juri Gilbo, Esa Heikkilä, Notis Georgiou, Spiros Pisinis, Maciej Żółtowski, and Ayis Ioannides. Nicolas is also the founder and artistic director of Ledra Music Soloists, a non-profit association now in its twenty-first year that organises concerts and festivals in Cyprus and abroad.

Alongside his solo career, Nicolas enjoys making music in collaboration with others and occasionally engages in interdisciplinary projects with dancers, choreographers, painters, and multimedia artists. His chamber music collaborations have included internationally acclaimed musicians and singers such as the violinists Vilmos Szabadi, Chloë Hanslip, Simos Papanas, Nikos Pittas, Wolfgang Schroeder, and Kazuhiro Tagaki; violist Máté Szűcs; the cellists Gustav Rivinius, Erkki Rautio, David Cohen, Péter Somodari, and Tytus Miecznikowski; flautists János Bálint and Virginie Bove; oboist Francesco Quaranta; clarinetist Gábor Varga; and the Meta4 and Akadémia String Quartets. His passion for art song has also led to collaborations with singers including sopranos Margarita Elia, Zoe Nicolaidou, and

Theodora Raftis; mezzo-soprano Elli Aloneftou; tenors Christian Zenker, Stelios Georgiou, and Marios Andreou; and baritone Kyros Patsalides.

Nicolas has recorded five albums for the Odradek label, exploring repertoire from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries as well as contemporary works by Cypriot composer Constantinos Y. Stylianou (b. 1972). His recordings include *Metavasis* (2023), featuring Stylianou's *12 Préludes, Series I*, and *Past Forward* (2023), recorded with violist Máté Szűcs and presenting Stylianou's first two viola sonatas. Chamber collaborations continue with *Hedra* (2023), a recording of cello and piano sonatas with cellist Péter Somodari. More recent releases include *Empneusis* (2025), devoted to works for clarinet and piano with clarinetist Gábor Varga, and *Kýma* (2025), which explores twentieth- and twenty-first-century sonatas for flute and piano with flautist János Bálint.

He regularly performs works by Cypriot composers in Cyprus and abroad, including several world premieres, with a particular focus on the music of Constantinos Y. Stylianou.

In 2018 he collaborated with Simos Papanas (concertmaster of the Thessaloniki Symphony Orchestra), Máté Szűcs (former principal viola of the Berliner Philharmoniker), and Péter Somodari (principal cello of the Wiener Philharmoniker) in a piano quartet concert featuring works by Mozart, Brahms, and Schumann. Earlier that year he toured an all-Chopin programme in Larnaca, Nicosia, Beirut, and London. He has also presented, for the first time in Cyprus, Beethoven's complete works for piano and violin (2013–14) with violinist Nikos Pittas and the complete works for piano and cello (2015–16) with cellist Péter Somodari.

Nicolas comes from a family of distinguished musicians, artists, actors, dancers, choreographers, and architects, and his passion for music and the arts was cultivated from an early age. In 2013 he was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the Royal College of Music in London. His dissertation is entitled *The Chamber Music of Ernő Dohnányi: Tradition, Innovation, and "Hungarianness"*. He also holds a Master of Music in Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Earlier studies include the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest (summa cum laude), the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Szeged, and the Hellenic Academy of Music. Among others, he studied with Edna Golandsky, Márta Gulyás, Daniel Shapiro, Sándor Falvai, Ferenc Kerek, and Tania Economou, and participated in masterclasses with Dmitri Bashkirov, Nicolas Economou, Vadim Suchanov, and Ferenc Rados.

Dr Costantinou has taught piano at the European University Cyprus and at the University of Nicosia, where he served as Assistant Professor, and currently teaches at the Cyprus Music Schools. His students have won numerous prizes at international piano competitions and have been admitted to leading institutions including the Reina Sofía School of Music in Madrid, the Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, the Purcell School in London, the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague, the New England Conservatory in Boston, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg. His articles on Beethoven have been published in the journal *Diorama*.

Nicolas speaks five languages fluently and is deeply committed to pianistic health. As a Certified Instructor of the Taubman Approach to Piano Playing, he promotes a piano technique that emphasises freedom, efficiency, and injury prevention. He is based in Cyprus.

Excerpts from Reviews

"The Constantinou-Somodari duo's Beethoven cycle is a revelation. Their peerless artistry sets a new standard of excellence. The duo's performance illuminates new details that honor tradition while making the works feel fresh and new. Bravo!"

David Allen Moore
Los Angeles Philharmonic
Associate Professor, The USC Thornton School of Music
24 February 2020

"Nicolas Constantinou gave an immaculate account of Mozart's often genial sonata KV333 on 22 July with all the tempo fluctuations sounding natural. The Andante sang consistently as well and the quite extrovert finale was spritely with moments of vehemence. It was followed with a heroic response to the originality and expressive power of Chopin's F minor Fantasy, Op. 49. Constantinou also understood this work's sense of freedom, its grandeur and the inevitability of its unfolding. ..."

Max Harrison
Musical Opinion – September-October 2009

"He began with Bach's C minor Partita BWV 826, a notably clean and involving reading, which was followed by Debussy's Second Book of Images, in which the music's inherent Impressionism was well to the fore, particularly during the concluding Poissons d'or."

Robert Matthew-Walker
Musical Opinion - April-May 2005

"...Nicolas proved himself to be an artist of deep emotions, who is capable of interpreting music with his whole being and soul..."

Hanna Laulajainen
KALEVA – August, 4 2003

"Listening, almost accidentally, to Nicolas Constantinou's performances I must confess that I found myself confronted with colossal interpretation..."

Dimitri Nicolau – Composer
January 2, 2002