

Kryštof MAŘATKA

pianist

Czech composer Kryštof Mařatka lives and works in Prague and Paris since 1994. The versatility which marks his artistic activities, carried out between several countries, is often considered as a strong link that he creates between the various cultural universes which he's inspired by or which he interrogates, while discovering new ways of musical expression.

Besides composition, which remains his main activity, Kryštof Mařatka also regularly performs as a **pianist**. The physical relationship to a musical instrument and the confrontation to the art of interpretation conditioned by the mastery of the playing is one of the keys to his composer's thought. Coming from the piano class of the **Prague Conservatoire** (1986-1992), he stems from the Czech piano school tradition and continues to play solo or shares the stage with other chamber music performers. Apart from the works of the repertoire and his own compositions, he often puts forward his passion for the work of **Leoš Janáček**, whose *Diary of One Who Disappeared* he recorded in the studio for the Czech Radio in 2015.

He often places **improvisations** at the heart of his programs as pianist, trying thus to raise awareness of the beauty of musical creation through the experience of the birth of a work witnessed by the audience in real time.

In an effort to expand the sound spectre of the instrument, Kryštof Mařatka explores different piano playing techniques, most notably using his hands directly **on the piano strings**, in improvised works or in improvised accompaniments to readings of texts and other opportunities. On the same theme, the composer-pianist has already led several **educational workshops** entitled "Journey inside the piano" intended for pianists and musicians curious to discover other techniques of piano playing than those produced on the keyboard.

As **conductor**, Kryštof Mařatka performs with symphonic and various other ensembles in programs often built around his own work, but also offering repertoire pieces and compositions by his contemporaries. Kryštof Mařatka has thus directed ensembles such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Nederlands Kamerorkest at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Prague Philharmonia Orchestra, the Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra, the Polish National Radio Orchestra, the Lille National Orchestra, the Prague National Opera Orchestra and many others. Grand Prize and

Audience Prize of the 2006 International Competition of Musical Personalities in Lodz (Poland) for his work **Luminarium** - *Mosaic of Twenty-Seven Fragments of World Music* - concerto for clarinet and orchestra, Kryštof Mařatka has also received the 1st Prize of the Shanghai Spring International Festival in China (2007) and of Radio France for his work **Chant G'hai** for suona (Chinese oboe) and symphonic orchestra. The piece has been programmed at the Expo Shanghai in 2010) and reprised by the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017, with Hu Chen Yun as soloist. In 2007, he was awarded the Pierre Cardin Prize of the **Academy of Fine Arts**, Paris, for musical composition.

In 2007, a documentary film has been produced about Kryštof Mařatka's musical universe: **Birth of an imaginary** - (26' min, Karl More Productions), broadcast on the European television channel MEZZO.

More information on : www.krystofmaratka.com