

# ALISSA FIRSOVA

Since winning the BBC Proms Young Composer competition in 2001, Alissa Firsova received three world premieres at the Proms: her Bach Allegro was played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Andrew Litton in 2010, her Bergen's Bonfire Op. 31 featured in the Bergen Philharmonic's 250th Anniversary Prom under Litton in 2015 and her Red Fox Op. 43 was performed by the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and Southbank Sinfonia under Jessica Cottis in 2019. Her music has also been performed by Imogen Cooper, the Dante Quartet, Netherlands Blazer Ensemble, NTO Mannheim Orchestra, Seattle Chamber Players, Camerata RCO (members of the Concertgebouw) and the Britten Sinfonia, among others. Alissa was recently invited to Verbier, Asiago, Canisy and Conques Festivals as pianist/composer-in-residence. Her music was recorded by Henning Kraggerud on the Simax label in his Munch Suite disc and The Sixteen recorded her "Stabat Mater Op. 30" for the Coro label, which was featured in Gramophone's "Top 10 Compositions by Women."

As a pianist she gave her Wigmore Hall and Proms debuts in 2009 and released her debut CD, Russian Émigrés, for the Vivat label in 2015. She has enjoyed collaborations with distinguished artists such as Stephen Kovacevich, Mark Padmore, Roman Simovic, Tim Hugh, Andrew Marriner and Daniel Rowland. Alissa gave her 'triple'-debut with the English Chamber Orchestra as director, composer and conductor at the Cadogan Hall in 2013. She also conducted the Camerata RCO in her Le Soleil de Conques op. 33 in Conques Festival in 2015 and for the Union Musicale series in Turin in 2016.

Alissa's composer portrait CD, "Firsova Fantasy", which includes her string quartet, Tennyson Fantasy Op. 36, recorded by the Tippett Quartet, was awarded Gramophone's "CD of the Month" in Sept 2018. She received a UK premiere of her Die Windsbraut Op. 38 by the BBC Philharmonic under Leo McFall in Sept 2018 and subsequently received its Scottish premiere in March 2020 with the BBCSSO under Mark Wigglesworth. She was also invited to give a solo piano recital for the Amsterdam Piano Series at the Concertgebouw in Oct 2018, which included her transcription of Mahler's Adagietto and was released on vinyl by Gutman Records in Feb 2021.

The 18/19 season included a US tour with the Camerata RCO and concerts in Paris, Geneva, Munich, Prague, Bratislava, the Luberon and London. Since July 2019 she became the Artistic Director of the Lincolnshire International Chamber Music Festival. 2020 opened with an all-Beethoven programme conducted and played by Alissa with the Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, a concert with Camerata RCO in Amsterdam's Muziekgebouw, including her Lieder der Welt Op. 44 and a Schubert and Britten song recital together with tenor, Mark Padmore in Lincoln.

In 2021, Alissa gave two Schumann/Britten/Brahms recitals together with Mark Padmore at the LICMF Festival and enjoyed a residency at the Stift Festival in Holland in Aug, where she conducted the world premiere of her mother, Elena Firsova's violin concerto as well as Gubaidulina's Sieben Worte and performed the world premiere of her own Lilacs Op. 47. In September, she received the Finnish premiere of her Die Windsbraut by the Oulu Sinfonia under Leo McFall and in October, she performed the Brahms Clarinet Trio together with a world premiere of her own Reunion Op. 49 with the Camerata RCO at the City Proms Festival in Holland.

2022 opened with a recording release of Alissa's Songs of the World by the Psappa Ensemble with soprano, Daisy Brown. In March, her Stabat Mater was performed in Oxford, Denmark, Sweden and New York and in April, the Britten Sinfonia and Matilda Lloyd gave a world premiere UK tour of her Stages for trumpet and strings. The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra performed Die Windsbraut at the Bridgewater Hall in May, conducted by Gemma New and in June, To Spring saw its world premiere by the Oxford Bach Choir and Philharmonia Orchestra in Oxford's Town Hall, in celebration of the choir's 125th Anniversary, conducted by Benjamin Nicholas. Gemma New then took Die Windsbraut to Houston Symphony for its US premiere in Nov.

In 2023 Stages receives its Finnish premiere under Leo McFall and the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra and The Sixteen perform her Stabat Mater in St. Martin-in-the-Fields as part of Holy Week. Alissa will be performing Brahms 1st Piano Concerto with the Bruno Walter Orchestra in Bratislava, following another residency at the Brahms Haus, Baden-Baden and she will be giving chamber music concerts in Munich, Vienna and the Algarve.

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