

Pierre REACH

Over the years, and in many parts of the world, Pierre Réach has acquired a reputation as an exceptional pianist who performs such spectacular works as Bach's Goldberg Variations, Liszt's transcription of Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, Beethoven's *Hammerklavier Sonata*, and Charles-Valentin Alkan's "The Four Ages of Life" sonata. He is also recognized as a wonderful teacher, able to convey his knowledge and his quest for emotion in music with a unique enthusiasm. For over twenty years, he has also become a tireless creator and organizer of artistic events. His first prize at the Olivier Messiaen International Competition brought him to public attention. He was also a prizewinner at the Pozzoli Competition in Italy, the Maria Canals and Jaen Competitions in Spain, and won a medal at the Arthur Rubinstein Competition in Israel. Pierre Réach perfected his skills from 1975 to 1982 with Maria Curcio in London and for several years received regular instruction from masters Arthur Rubinstein, Alexis Weissenberg, and Paul Badura-Skoda.

In his extensive repertoire, which ranges from Bach to Olivier Messiaen, including Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, and Chopin, the work of Beethoven has always held a special place. Being able to play the 32 sonatas of this composer, whom he never ceased to devote himself to with passion, represents for him a true achievement in a life filled with tenacious determination, hard work, and an ever-increasing demand for perfection. Pierre Réach has given recitals and concerts with orchestras throughout Europe, as well as in Japan, the United States, Israel, Russia, China (where he visits four times a year), and South Korea, with orchestras such as the Philharmonic and National de Radio France, the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, the KBS Orchestra in Seoul, the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester, the Richmond Orchestra in Virginia, the Pomeriggi Musicali in Milan, the Balearic Symphony Orchestra, and the Banda Municipal de Barcelona. He has appeared in numerous festivals in recitals and chamber music with artists such as Gary Hoffman, Pierre Amoyal, Olivier Charlier, Gérard Caussé, Joan Martin-Royo, Christoph Henkel, Gérard Poulet, Sophie Koch, Michel Lethiec, Patrice Fontanarosa, Régis Pasquier, and Bruno Pasquier. He has recorded several records and CDs (works by Charles-Valentin Alkan, Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, Olivier Messiaen, Jean Cras, Stravinsky, Mendelssohn, Mussorgsky, etc.). Pierre Réach is today considered one of the finest interpreters of Bach's Goldberg Variations. He maintains a close relationship with this work and performs it regularly in concert. In January 2005, he was appointed Professor Honoris Causa of the Shanghai Conservatory, and his masterclasses in several countries in Europe, America, and Asia are highly regarded. Pierre Réach is currently a piano professor at the *École Normale Alfred Cortot* in Paris. Everyone remembers the concert Pierre Réach gave on the terrace of the Pic du Midi Observatory, at an altitude of 2,800 meters, on a helicopter-borne concert piano, broadcast by TF1. This led to the creation of the Piano aux Pyrénées festival, which a few years later became the Piano-Pic festival (www.piano-pic.fr) in Bagnères-de-Bigorre (Hautes-Pyrénées). He also created the Printemps musical de Provins, the Vila-seca music festival in Spain, and the Piano à Castelnaudary festival. Pierre Réach has been a STEINWAY ARTIST since 1982. In March 2015, Pierre Réach was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Ministry of Culture.