

Hayf



Photo: Steve J. Sherman

Carlo Grante is one of the most acclaimed pianists actively performing and recording today. His concert repertoire is one of the largest, and includes masterworks by core composers and important works by lesser-known ones.

Carlo Grante is one of Europe's foremost concert artists, having performed in such major venues and prestigious halls as: the Grosser Saal of the Konzerthaus and the Goldener Saal of the Musikverein in Vienna; the Chamber Music Hall of the Berlin Philharmonie; at Lincoln Center's ATH; the Wigmore Hall and the Barbican in London; the Sala Santa Cecilia in Rome; the KMS of the Berlin Philharmonie, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Dresden Semperoper, and the Stuttgart Opera. He has played in major cities like Chicago, Washington, Milan, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Hanoi, Zagreb, Bucharest, Lima and Rio de Janeiro, and at festivals in Manchester, Vienna, Istanbul, Husum, Newport, Miami, Tallin, Ravello; at MDR Musiksommer and at the Neuhaus Festival in Russia. He has appeared as soloist with major orchestras including the Dresden Staatskapelle, the Royal Philharmonic, the Vienna Symphony, Orchestra of St. Cecilia, Pomeriggi Musicali di Milano, MDR Leipzig, Capella Istropolitana, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, and Concertino Wien. Carlo Grante gave the first live performance of all 53 of Godowsky's *Studies on the Études of Chopin* at the Newport Festival. In 2014-15 he is performing "Masters of High Romanticism", a series featuring colossal works by Chopin, Robert Schumann and Brahms, at New York's Lincoln Center, Vienna's Musikverein and at the KMS of the Berlin Philharmonie. He will give



the world premiere of Bruce Adolphe's concerto under Luisi in Zurich next year.

Of his live performances, a Berlin newspaper wrote in 2015 that Grante's playing had 'such fullness and warmth..., [with] such a soft and gradation-rich forte... without hardnesses or peaks but full of power – such [Chopin] playing has rarely been heard since Magaloff." A German reviewer described Grante's Mozart *Fantasia* as "a small, quiet miracle." The chief critic of Vienna's main newspaper dubbed Grante "a knight of the piano, without blemish and without fear..." (Sinkovicz, *Die Presse*, 2010). About Grante's two recitals at Wigmore Hall, *Musical Opinion* wrote, "the discs of Grante had shown astonishing qualities...his live performances have now proved him to be the first-rate pianist that his discs suggested." After a series of 6 recitals in New York, Bernard Holland of *The New York Times* wrote, "Carlo Grante ... [showed] a prowess that went beyond muscle and speed. Here was not just attractive color but color with a purpose." Eminent critic Harold Schonberg reported that Grante demonstrated "real, stylish virtuoso playing, nimble and confident, backed by a splendid piano tone...and [impeccable fingerwork]."

Grante's discography runs to more than fifty CDs and ranges from Domenico Scarlatti (Grante is recording the complete sonatas, a 40-CD project under the auspices of Bösendorfer and Badura-Skoda in Vienna), to Platti, Clementi, Chopin, Liszt and Schumann, twentieth-century composers like Godowsky and Busoni, to contemporary composers such as Adolphe. Grante has CDs out of works by Vlad (*Opus Triplex*), Finissy (*Bachsche Nachdichtungen*), and Flynn (*Glimpses of our Inner Lives*), all dedicated to the pianist; Grante is recording 2 new works written for him by Adolphe in 2015. Grante has received high praise for his performances and recordings of: Franz Schmidt's two piano concertos with the MDR Leipzig under Fabio Luisi; three Mozart piano concertos with Orchestra of St. Cecilia, Mozart Concerto K.271, recorded live in Vienna with Concertino Wien; the Busoni Concerto op. 39, recorded live in Vienna with the Vienna Symphony under Fabio Luisi; Robert Schumann's three piano sonatas; and major works by Debussy, Ravel, Rachmaninov, Bloch, Liszt and Godowsky (a recording of whose complete works for piano is in progress). A reviewer of Grante's Scarlatti mentioned his "meticulous, thoughtful virtuosity and stylistic insights", saying "...like Horowitz, ... [he is] a master at creating a multicolored portfolio of legato shadings through fingers alone, pedaling ever so discreetly." (*Gramophone*) Grante's 2015 Liszt CD was said to "[achieve] a rarified bliss worthy of the Liszt greats Cziffra, Horowitz, and Bolet. [It] exploits a spirit of repose, a dream-vision of remembered rapture. [The] middle-voice harmonization, ...pours liquid gold."

Carlo Grante graduated from the Conservatory S. Cecilia in Rome, studying with Sergio Perticaroli, after which he studied in the U.S. with Ivan Davis at the University of Miami and at The Juilliard School in New York with Rudolf Firkušný; he then studied intensively in London with Alice Kezeradze-Pogorelich and in Vienna with Paul Badura-Skoda.

A Bösendorfer artist, Carlo Grante is also a widely-published writer on the piano literature. He lives in Rome.



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