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**GIORGI GIGASHVILI**

**Piano**

Born in Tbilisi, Georgia in 2000, Giorgi Gigashvili studied piano without ever thinking about a professional career as a pianist. He is passionate about the folksongs of his country, which he likes to arrange and sing. He even participated in the Georgian ‘The Voice’ and won the competition at the age of thirteen! However, he continued his musical training at the Paliashvili Central Music School for Gifted Children and entered the Tbilisi State Conservatory in the studio of Revaz Tavadze.

At that time, as is still the case today, his supreme model and idol was Martha Argerich. Giorgi’s pianistic career took a decisive turn in April 2019 when he won First Prize at the Vigo International Piano Competition, with Martha as president of the jury and Nelson Freire at her side. A few months later, Giorgi won Third Prize and the Audience Prize at the Sixty-Second Busoni Competition.

The pandemic forced him to remain locked down in Georgia, where he began to write electronic music and songs that became very popular.

His passion for the piano was rekindled in 2021, when he received the Hortense Anda-Bührle Special Prize at the Fifteenth Géza Anda Competition in Zurich; this was followed by an invitation to take part in the KlavierOlymp in Bad Kissingen, where he won First Prize and the Audience Prize. In March 2023, Giorgi celebrated another great success: he won the 2nd Prize at the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition and was also awarded the Junior Jury Prize, the Prize for the best chamber music, and five out of six audience prizes.

Since September 2021, Giorgi has been studying with Nelson Goerner in Geneva. He is supported by the Lisa Batiashvili Foundation and the Géza Anda Foundation. During the 2022/23 season he has been a Classeek Ambassador artist. He is supported by Bayer Kultur’s stArtacademy. Alongside his career as a classical pianist, he has created with his friends an electronic and experimental music group, Tsduneba, which means ‘temptation’ in Georgian.

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