



Daniil Trifonov

Pianist

Grammy Award-winning pianist Daniil Trifonov (dan-EEL TREE-fon-ov) has made a spectacular ascent of the classical music world, as a solo artist, champion of the concerto repertoire, chamber and vocal collaborator, and composer. Combining consummate technique with rare sensitivity and depth, his performances are a perpetual source of awe. “He has everything and more, ... tenderness and also the demonic element. I never heard anything like that,” marveled pianist Martha Argerich. With *Transcendental*, the Liszt collection that marked his third title as an exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist, Trifonov won the Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Solo Album of 2018. Named *Gramophone’s* 2016 Artist of the Year and *Musical America’s* 2019 Artist of the Year, he was made a “Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” by the French government in 2021. As *The Times* of London notes, he is “without question the most astounding pianist of our age.”

In the 2026–27 season, Trifonov performs Brahms’s First Piano Concerto for his San Diego Symphony debut and returns to the Minnesota Orchestra. Other orchestral highlights include Prokofiev’s Second Piano Concerto with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, and Philharmonia Zürich; Rachmaninov’s First with the St. Louis Symphony; Scriabin’s sole concerto with the Dallas Symphony; Dvořák’s with the Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia; and a pair of Beethoven rarities on a high-profile European tour with the Berlin Baroque Soloists. Taking in venues from Carnegie Hall’s main stage to Leipzig’s Gewandhaus, Trifonov embarks on a major transatlantic tour with a new solo recital program of works by Handel, Schubert, Stravinsky, Villa-Lobos, Francisco García, Bullumba Landestoy, Camargo Guarnieri, and the versatile composer-pianist himself. The rich and eclectic music of Latin America also features on *My American Story – South*, his most recent Deutsche Grammophon recording, due for release in fall 2026.

Trifonov’s 2025-26 season included three returns to Carnegie Hall, where he and baritone Matthias Goerne crowned their transatlantic tour of Schubert’s great song cycles; joined Cristian Măcelaru and the Orchestre National de France for concertos by Saint-Saëns and Ravel; and gave a mainstage solo recital of Schumann, Myaskovsky, Taneyev, and Prokofiev, with which program he toured Europe and the U.S. throughout the season. Other highlights included a European tour with violinist Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider; Brahms’s Second Piano Concerto with the Cleveland Orchestra and Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia; and Beethoven’s Second Piano Concerto with both the Chicago and Cincinnati Symphonies.

In 2024–25, Trifonov opened the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra’s season and undertook year-long residencies with both the Chicago Symphony and the Czech Philharmonic, with which he gave a North American tour that took in Carnegie Hall. Other recent orchestral highlights include headlining the 2022–23 season-opening galas of Washington’s National Symphony Orchestra and Carnegie Hall, where his Opening Night concert with The Philadelphia Orchestra marked the first of four appearances at the venue that season; a multi-faceted, season-long tenure as 2019-20 Artist-in-Residence of the New York Philharmonic, featuring the New York premiere of his own Piano Quintet; a season-long Carnegie Hall “Perspectives” series; the world premiere performances of Bates’s Piano Concerto with ensembles including the co-commissioning Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony; joining Riccardo Muti for the historic gala finale of the Chicago Symphony’s 125th-anniversary celebrations; launching the New York Philharmonic’s 2018-19

season; headlining complete Rachmaninov concerto cycles at the New York Philharmonic's Rachmaninov Festival and with London's Philharmonia Orchestra and the Munich Philharmonic; undertaking season-long residencies with the Berlin Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Radio France, and at Vienna's Musikverein, where he appeared with the Vienna Philharmonic and gave the Austrian premiere of his own Piano Concerto; and headlining the Berlin Philharmonic's famous New Year's Eve concert under Sir Simon Rattle.

Since making solo recital debuts at Carnegie Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, Vienna's Musikverein, Japan's Suntory Hall, and Paris's Salle Pleyel in 2012-13, Trifonov has given solo recitals at venues including the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.; Boston's Celebrity Series; London's Barbican, Royal Festival, and Queen Elizabeth Halls; Amsterdam's Concertgebouw (Master Piano Series); Berlin's Philharmonie; Munich's Herkulesaal; Bavaria's Schloss Elmau; Zurich's Tonhalle; the Lucerne Piano Festival; the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels; the Théâtre des Champs Élysées and Auditorium du Louvre in Paris; Barcelona's Palau de la Música; Tokyo's Opera City; the Seoul Arts Center; and Melbourne's Recital Centre.

Recent additions to Trifonov's celebrated and award-winning Deutsche Grammophon discography include the double album *Tchaikovsky*, which explores the composer's more intimate side; the double album *My American Story: North*, featuring Mason Bates's Piano Concerto – a work dedicated to the pianist – captured live with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra; and *Bach: The Art of Life*. A bestseller showcasing Trifonov's own completion of *The Art of Fugue*, this scored the pianist his sixth Grammy nomination, while an accompanying music video was recognized with the 2022 Opus Klassik Public Award. Trifonov also received Opus Klassik's Instrumentalist of the Year/Piano award, both in 2021 for *Silver Age*, his album of Russian solo and orchestral piano music by Scriabin, Prokofiev, and Stravinsky, and in 2018 for *Chopin Evocations*, which pairs the composer's works with those by the 20th-century composers he influenced. These releases bookended Trifonov's three-volume series with The Philadelphia Orchestra and Nézet-Séguin: *Destination Rachmaninov: Arrival*, for which the pianist received a 2021 Grammy nomination; *Destination Rachmaninov: Departure*, named *BBC Music's* 2019 Concerto Recording of the Year; and *Rachmaninov: Variations*, a 2015 Grammy nominee. He made his debut as an exclusive DG artist with *Trifonov: The Carnegie Recital*, which captured his sold-out 2013 Carnegie Hall recital debut live and secured him his first Grammy nomination.

It was during the 2010-11 season that Trifonov won medals at three of the music world's most prestigious competitions, taking Third Prize in Warsaw's Chopin Competition, First Prize in Tel Aviv's Rubinstein Competition, and both First Prize and Grand Prix – an additional honor bestowed on the best overall competitor in any category – in Moscow's Tchaikovsky Competition. In 2013 he was awarded the prestigious Franco Abbiati Prize for Best Instrumental Soloist by Italy's foremost music critics.

Born in Nizhny Novgorod in 1991, Trifonov began his musical training at the age of five, and went on to attend Moscow's Gnessin School of Music as a student of Tatiana Zelikman, before pursuing his piano studies with Sergei Babayan at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has also studied composition, and continues to write for piano, chamber ensemble, and orchestra. When he premiered his own Piano Concerto, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* marveled: "Even having seen it, one cannot quite believe it. Such is the artistry of pianist-composer Daniil Trifonov."

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