



Vasco Dantas

Pianist

Vasco Dantas, a Portuguese pianist born in 1992, is artistic director of the Music Series Festivals, Sezim Music Series, Piano Concerto Festival and Algarve Music Series. He completed his Bachelor of Music with 1st Class & Distinction at the London Royal College of Music, under the pianistic guidance of Dmitri Alexeev and Niel Immelman, also studying orchestral conducting with Peter Stark and Natalia Luis-Bassa. He finished his Master's degree in Performance with the highest marks under the supervision of Heribert Koch, as well as his PhD "Konzertexamen" at the University of Münster.

Vasco has already obtained more than 50 awards and distinctions in international competitions, including: Grand Prix at the Valletta International Piano Competition (Malta), Prix Spécial at the Concours International de Piano SAR La Princesse Lalla Meryem (Morocco), 1st Prize at the Porto Santa Cecília Competition (Portugal), Golden Medal of Merit (Matosinhos City Council), Casa da Música Award 2009, Best Portuguese Award (Viseu International Competition), Antena 2 Prize 2013, 3rd Prize at the Münster Steinway & Sons Competition (Germany), the "Esther Fisher Prize 2013" (best undergraduate student at the London RCM), Eng. António de Almeida Foundation Award, Henry Wood Trust Prize (2011 and 2012), Richard Wagner Foundation and Circle Scholarship Award Portugal and as well as 1st prizes in the following competitions: Estoril Interpretation, Fundação International Piano Orchestra, Alto Minho International Piano Orchestra, Ría de Vigo International Piano Orchestra, Florinda Santos International Piano Orchestra, Marília Rocha Piano, Póvoa de Varzim Piano, Paços' Premium, Elisa Pedroso Piano and Maestro Ivo Cruz Chamber Music, among others.

In 2022 he made his solo debut at the Theatre des Champs-Élysées (Paris) with the Portuguese Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2019 he made his debut in a solo recital at Carnegie Hall, in New York. In Russia, he made his debut in 2017 playing solo with the Chamber Orchestra Kremlin in the Great Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. The previous year, he made his debut in Germany playing solo with the Jülich Sinfonieorchester and the Junges Sinfonieorchester Aachen. On the Asian continent he played solo for the first time in 2015 with the Hong Kong Symphonia at the HK City Hall Concert Hall; The previous year he had made his international debut on the American continent, playing solo with the Espírito Santo Symphony Orchestra, in Vitória - Brazil; In 2013 he made his debut on the European continent with the Porto Symphony Orchestra. And in 2011 he made his debut as a solo pianist at Sala Suggia of Casa da Música, inaugurating the EDP 2011 Piano Cycle.

He has also played solo with other orchestras, such as Madeira Classical, Center Classical, Southern Classical, Junior Music Festival, Portuguese Philharmonic, Beiras Philharmonic, Gulbenkian, Young Portuguese Orchestra, Lisbon Metropolitan Orchestra, Northern Orchestra, Promenade Orchestra, Cascais Symphony, Portuguese Symphony, and has had the opportunity to work with renowned conductors, such as, Choi Sown Le, Daniel Cohen, Dinis Sousa, Douglas Bostock, Günter Neuhold, Jan Wierzbka, Joshua dos Santos, Luís Carvalho, Martin André, Misha Rachlevsky, Nicholas Kok, Nikolay Lalov, Nuno Coelho, Osvaldo Ferreira, Pedro Carneiro, Pedro Neves, Peter Sauerwein, Rui Pinheiro, Vassily Sinaisky and Victor Hugo Toro.

He began studying piano at the age of 4 at the Valentim de Carvalho school in Porto, and at the age of 6 he gave his first public presentation, at the Tram Museum and on RTP1 in the program "Praça da Alegria". In 2000, he was admitted with distinction to the Conservatory of Music of Porto where he studied with Rosgard Lingardson, finishing the course with the highest grade. Parallel to the piano, at the age of 7 he began studying the violin with José Paulo Jesus. He stood out in the orchestras "Momentum Perpetuum", "Jovens dos Conservatórios Oficiais de Música", Orquestra XXI and in Metropolitana de Lisboa junior, as concertmaster.

He participated in piano and violin improvement courses with renowned teachers, such as Álvaro Teixeira Lopes, Andrew Ball, Artur Pizarro, Betty Haag-Kuhnke, Boris Berman, Cristina Ortiz, Fausto Neves, Ian Jones, Ivo Cruz, John Lill, Luiz de Moura Castro, Martin André, Mats Widlund, Nina Tichman, Paul Badura-Skoda, Pedro Burmester, Peter Donohoe, Philippe Cassard, Sergei Covalenco and Yuri Bogdanov.

He has performed as a pianist and violinist in hundreds of events, in various renowned venues on 5 continents: in Germany, Australia, Brazil, China, Croatia, Spain, USA, France, Italy, Greece, Kosovo, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, United Kingdom, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, such as:

Carnegie Hall (USA), Tsarytsino Museum and Grand Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory (Moscow), Chinese Cultural Centre, Institut of Contemporary Arts and Steinway Piano Gallery (Singapore), Princess Galyani Vadhana Institut of Music (Thailand), London Steinway Hall, Whiteley Hall, Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall, Regent's Hall and Pallant House Gallery (UK); Hong Kong City Hall (China), Carlos Gomes Theatre and Barueri Municipal Theatre (Brazil), SchumannHaus Bonn, Eurogress Aachen, Düren Schloss Burgau (Germany), Stockholm Royal Palace, Stockholm Royal College of Music (Sweden), San Agustin Theatre and Caixa Nova Auditorium in Vigo (Spain), Casa da Música, CCB, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, among several other Portuguese main halls.

In the pedagogical area, he has been invited as a lecturer by Boston University, has a master's degree in Music Teaching from the University of Aveiro and the diploma "Art of Teaching" from London RCM. He teaches privately and is frequently invited to give masterclasses and participate in festivals around the world, as well as serving as a jury member in several international piano competitions.

He recorded on CD at the invitation of Antena 2, Coviello Classics, ARS Produktion, Rádio Galega, MPMP and KNS Classical. His discography includes 5 albums: Promenade (2015), Golden Liszt (2016), Freitas Branco (2019), Poetic Scenes (2020), Departure (2022), already broadcast by Antena 2 and the German radio stations MDR Klassik and WDR 3.

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