

COLLECTION
BBVA FOUNDATION - NEOS

Mieczysław Weinberg
Complete sonatas for Viola Solo
Fyodor Druzhinin
Sonata for Viola Solo

JULIA REBEKKA ADLER (née Mai), was the best-placed German competitor at the 2004 ARD Music Competition in the category viola. She started lessons at the age of six and was soon to win several First Prizes in Germany's 'Jugend musiziert' competition (two viola prizes and two string quartet prizes). In 1994, at the age of sixteen, she recorded her first CD as a soloist (the *Viola Concerto No. 1* by Darius Milhaud), with the conductor Nicolás Pasquet. Despite these successes she set out early on a solo career, studying with Kim Kashkashian and Johannes Lüthy before completing her education at school. She then studied Viola with Johannes Lüthy and Hartmut Rohde in Berlin, with Yuri Bashmet in Siena and Wolfram Christ in Freiburg. In January 2007 she graduated from Berlin's University of the Arts, with the highest marks in her discipline that had ever been awarded by the institution. Among her numerous awards is the First Prize at the 2002 Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Competition.

Julia Rebekka Adler has played in many renowned ensembles, including the Kuss Quartet and the Pellegrini Quartet. She has performed chamber music with Tim Vogler, David Geringas, Antje Weithaas, Wen-Sinn Yang, Karl Leister and Hans-Jörg Schellenberger, and many others. She is presently a member of the Berliner Solisten-OKTETT (with Mirijam Contzen and Jens Peter Maintz) and the Viardot Piano Quartet. In 2004 she became co-principal violist with the Munich Philharmonic. Her openness for New Music led to a performance with Karlheinz Stockhausen at the 1998 Donaueschingen Music Days and to numerous performances of contemporary works for viola. In 2004 she recorded the set work of the ARD Music Competition for the Bavarian Radio (*Parthenope* for viola solo by David Sawer). Many contemporary composers have written works for viola or viola d'amore specially for her, amongst them Gerardo Gandini and Wilfried Hiller. Julia Rebekka Adler constantly seeks to discover unknown works. Her CD recording with the cellist Thomas Ruge ('Keepsake of Modern Age', NEOS 10805) is dedicated to works for string duo by composers some of whom have sunk into oblivion. In spring 2008 she founded the concert series 'Werke vergessener jüdischer Komponisten' (Works by forgotten Jewish composers).

The Russian-Jewish pianist and musicologist **JASCHA NEMTSOV** was born in Magadan in 1963. He attended the Special Music School at the Leningrad Conservatory and was awarded a Gold Medal in the final exams. He then continued his musical education at the piano department of the Leningrad Conservatory and graduated with distinction in 1986. Jascha Nemtsov moved to Germany in 1992. “Jascha Nemtsov presents himself as a worthy descendant of Liszt and his pupils”, according to the German magazine *Fono Forum* in November of 2008 on the occasion of Nemtsov’s newly released CD with works by Franz Liszt. Along with performing the classical and romantic piano repertoire he has dedicated several concert programmes to works by Jewish composers persecuted and murdered by the Nazis. Other special areas are Jewish art music and Russian music of the 20th century, particularly works by Dmitri Shostakovich. To date he has recorded 25 CDs, including numerous world premiere recordings, solo piano works and chamber music, where his partners are Tabea Zimmermann (viola), David Geringas (violoncello), Ingolf Turban, Kolja Blacher and Dmitri Sitkovetsky (violin), Chen Halevi (clarinet), and the Vogler Quartet. His recordings have garnered various international distinctions such as Audiophile Reference – The Best of 2001, Klassik heute Empfehlung, CHOC – Le Monde de la Musique, Recording of the Month (MusicWeb), or Disc of the Month April 2006 (BBC Music Magazine). His 2007 recording of sonatas for violin and piano by Shostakovich and Weinberg (together with the violinist Kolja Blacher) was awarded the German Record Critics Prize. Jascha Nemtsov became a member of the School of Jewish Studies at the University of Potsdam in 2002. In 2004 he earned his doctorate with a dissertation on ‘The New Jewish School in music’. His postdoctoral thesis treats ‘The Zionism in music: Jewish music and the national idea’ (2007).