

“Magic moments of piano artistry – a symbiosis of virtuosity and extraordinary musicality“ German newspaper „Die Rheinpfalz“ appreciates emerging pianist Sonia Achkar.

Hailed equally by audience and press for her *“profound musicality, refined sensitivity and wide colour palette”*, German born pianist Sonia Achkar has performed in concert halls worldwide such as Mannheimer Rosengarten, Stuttgarter Liederhalle, Gewandhaus zu Leipzig, Philharmonie Ludwigshafen, Beethovenhalle Bonn, Semperoper Dresden, National Center for Performing Arts Beijing (China), Shanghai City Theater and His Majesty’s Theater Perth (Australien).

As a recitalist, soloist and accomplished chamber musician she has been invited to festivals throughout Europe, USA, Canada and Asia including Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival, Bachfest Leipzig, Kurt Weill Fest Dessau, Schwetzingen Festspiele, Carl Orff Festspiele (Germany), Thy Chamber Music Festival (Denmark), Toronto Summer Music Festival (Canada), Val Tidone Music Festival (Italy), Festival de Música de Cámara León (Spain) and Nancyphonies (France).

The young Steinway Artist has been granted numerous awards at national and international competitions such as the Val Tidone International Music Competition and the Deutscher Musikwettbewerb. Her career has been supported by various foundations including Rotary International Foundation, Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Richard-Wagner Foundation, PE-Trust, German Music Foundation, Culture Foundation Rhein-Neckar and Willy Robert Pitzer Trust.

A dedicated chamber musician, Sonia Achkar is a very diverse and highly sought after partner. Legendary artist Menahem Pressler called her a *“very fine pianist and outstandingly sensitive musician. She is moreover an excellent chamber music collaborator, the kind string players love.”* Together with Julius Bekesch (violin) and Jonathan Weigle (cello) she is a founding member of the State of the Art Piano Trio (SOTA Piano Trio), named after the SOTA Resonance Festival in Hyderabad (India) where they were invited in 2019. For more information please visit www.sotapianotrio.com

Sonia Achkar regularly broadcasts and takes part in productions on German radio and television such as SWR, WDR, NDR, MDR, BR, Deutschlandradio Kultur and Phoenix.

Born into an international family with German-Polish-Moroccan roots, Sonia Achkar has started studying with Rudolf Meister and Ok-Hi Lee (University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim) from the age of 13 until she received the artist diploma. She subsequently pursued a degree at the Jacobs School of Music (Bloomington, USA) with legendary pianist of the Beaux Arts Trio

Menahem Pressler. Additionally, Sonia Achkar has received inspiration and guidance from Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Paul Badura-Skoda, Andrzej Jasiński, Janina Fialkowska, Alain Planès and Joseph Kalichstein.

After working as an Assistant Instructor at the Jacobs School of Music (Bloomington, USA) and the University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim (Germany), the committed pedagogue is currently teaching chamber music at the University of Music and Theatre "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Leipzig (Germany) and as a permanent faculty member at the University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart (Germany).