



Can Çakmur

Piano

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*The contest's clear and deserving winner, however, was Ankara-born Can Çakmur, who dared to be simple in Beethoven's lyrical Fourth Piano Concerto, and to let the music speak for itself, in a wonderfully luminous, graceful account that felt entirely sincere and heartfelt. His touchingly low-key post-results-announcement encore of the second movement from Schumann's Second Piano Sonata only confirmed his disarmingly unaffected, very special talents, at once naive and highly sophisticated.*

David Kettle, The Scotsman

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**Turkish pianist Can Çakmur (Pronounced: Djahn Tchakmur) is the first prize winner of the 10th Hamamatsu International Piano Competition in 2018, where he also won the Chamber Music Prize, and the Scottish International Piano Competition in 2017.**

Can has performed in concert halls such as Glasgow Concert Hall, Eindhoven Muziekgebouw, Tokyo Opera City, Muza Kawasaki Hall and the Wigmore Hall in London as well as the most important concert halls in his homeland, Turkey. He has appeared in the most important classical music festivals in Turkey including the Istanbul Music Festival, where he headlined the opening concert in 2015 with Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra (BIPO) under Sascha Goetzl. In 2018 he has been re-invited for the "Festival Meetings" with the violinist Alican Süner and cellist Jamal Aliyev.

During the year 2019, Can has made his debuts with numerous Japanese and European orchestras including the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Sapporo Symphony and the Osaka Symphony Orchestras as well as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and in halls such as Paris Salle Cortot and the Wigmore Hall in London. He headlined the closing concert of the Festa Summer MUZA Kawasaki with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra conducted by Tadaaki Otaka. His recital at the Sumida Triphony Hall in Tokyo was recorded by NHK in a 4K video production.

His debut SACD with BIS Records was released in April 2019 to great critical acclaim with 5 star ratings from Diapason, ResMusica and a 5 star plus Supersonic rating from Pizzicato. Can was also awarded an International Classical Music Award in January 2020 in the category of audio solo instrument. His second SACD with BIS Records will include the complete transcriptions from Schubert's Schwanengesang and the 4 Valses Oubliées by Franz Liszt.

In 2020, Can will make his debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dalia Stasevska. Also scheduled are performances at Milton Court Concert Hall in London, KKL Luzern, Teatro dal Verme in Milano, Pomeranian Philharmonic in Bydgoszcz, Foundation Louis Vuitton in Paris as well as numerous appearances in Europe, Japan and Turkey.

Next to recitals and concerts with orchestras, chamber music occupies an important place in Can's program. In 2019, he performed with the cellist Jamal Aliyev at the St. Magnus Music Festival in Orkney which was recorded live for BBC 3 Radio. In 2020, he will collaborate with the violinist Fenella Humphreys for a concert series of all Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin in Istanbul as well as the Borusan Quartet and the scholars of G & S Pekinel Young Musicians on the World Stages (Veriko Tchumburidze, Violin; Barok Bostanci, Viola; Umut Sağlam, Cello), a scholarship program of which Can is also part of since 2013.

As an avid writer and speaker, Can has been writing monthly for the Andante Classical Music Magazine since 2015 and often moderates his own concerts. In 2016, he was invited by the Istanbul Music Festival for a pre-concert talk before the 75th Birthday Recital of İdil Biret. He has also played in cities like Ordu or Tokat in Turkey, where classical music is rarely heard, to spread classical music to a wider audience.

Born in 1997 in Ankara, Can began his music education with Leyla Bekensir and Ayşe Kaptan. His studies with Jun Kanno and Emre Şen, whom he studied with for six years, influenced him greatly. In 2012, next to his high school studies in Ankara, he was accepted to La Schola Cantorum in Paris to work with Marcella Crudeli. He received Diplome de Virtuosite with highest honours in 2014. Since 2012, he has had the chance to work with musicians such as Alan Weiss, Arie Vardi, Claudio Martinez-Mehner, Leslie Howard and Robert Levin among others. He is the recipient of the “2015 Young Musician Award” at 5th Donizetti Classical Music Awards in Istanbul, the 2018 DAAD-Prize of the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar and the 2018 Aydin Gün Encouragement Award by Istanbul Culture and Arts Foundation. Can currently pursues his studies with Grigory Gruzman in University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar and continues to work privately with Diane Andersen in Belgium.

Can Çakmur is a part of “G & S Pekinel Young Musicians on the World Stages” scholarship program, supported by TUPRAS, and has been granted a grand piano to aid his studies.

**February 2020** *Please do not use this biography if it is more than three months old.*