



## Defying the crisis with late Romanticism

The German-Greek pianist Kiveli Dörken is presenting her first own studio album on the Ars Produktion label. It features two works by Josef Suk: the piano cycle “Things Lived and Dreamt”, op. 30, and the Piano Quintet in G Minor, op. 8 – the latter played together with outstanding musician friends.



### Josef Suk (1874-1935)

#### Piano Quintet in G minor Op. 8

- [1] I. ALLEGRO ENERGICO
- [2] II. ADAGIO. RELIGIOSO
- [3] III. SCHERZO. PRESTO
- [4] IV. FINALE – ALLEGRO CON FUOCO

#### Erlebtes und Erträumtes Op. 30 – ten pieces for Piano

- [5] I. ALLEGRETTO MODERATO
- [6] II. ALLEGRO VIVO
- [7] III. ANDANTE SOSTENUTO
- [8] IV. POCO ALLEGRETTO
- [9] V. ADAGIO
- [10] VI. MODERATO QUASI ALLEGRETTO
- [11] VII. ADAGIO NON TANTO
- [12] VIII. VIVACE
- [13] IX. POCO ANDANTE
- [14] X. ADAGIO

### Kiveli Dörken Piano

[1] – [4] Christian Tetzlaff 1<sup>st</sup> Violin | Florian Donderer 2<sup>nd</sup> Violin | Timothy Ridout Viola | Tanja Tetzlaff Violoncello

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Ready to confront crises with an artistic power and unrestrained optimism that are communicated directly to the listeners: that is the impression made by the just 24-year-old pianist Kiveli Dörken. She has already amply demonstrated this spirit: during the smouldering financial crisis, she, together with her sister Danae, initiated the Molyvos International Music Festival on the Greek island of Lesbos in 2015, an event that has seen much successful music-making and celebration ever since. And this Greek-born musician is also fearlessly defying the present cultural shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic – a mostly virtual defiance, of course, such as with the sisters' video blog “Lockdown Diaries” and virtuosic streaming events, but also with her spontaneous agreement to take part in a drive-in concert in the Kulturraffinerie Monheim that was organised at short notice. Now, with the release of her **debut CD** featuring works by Josef Suk (1874-1935), Kiveli is sending another signal that music is an indispensable instrument at all times, and not just during crises: for self-reflection, for comfort, for amusement or – most of all – for providing a never-failing source of energy.

For Kiveli Dörken, it was a unique “moment of synchronisation” that led to the late-Romantic Czech composer **Josef Suk** becoming the focus of her first own studio project. Upon encountering Suk's works for the first time, she felt *“instinctively close to him. I immediately sensed that the musical language he uses is one that is very similar to my trains of thought, my actual language, my way of talking.”* The piano cycle “Things Lived and Dreamt”, op. 30, by this favourite pupil and (later) son-in-law of Antonín Dvořák forms the centrepiece of the album. It is something like a sleeping giant of the piano repertoire. *“I was always looking for something that expresses my being and is somehow also*

*a bit undiscovered.*” In the altogether ten pieces of the cycle, composed in 1909, Suk, an outstanding violinist who gave more than 4,000 concerts as a member of the internationally-acclaimed Bohemian Quartet, displays an individual, expressive musical language that has emancipated itself from the style of his popular artistic mentor. For Dörken, the work is a wonderful kaleidoscope in the form of an artist's diary that runs the gamut from melancholy to irony: *“Here, it is more about everyday emotions that subtly influence our life and that affect us more deeply precisely for this reason.”*

The recording of the **Piano Quintet in G Minor, op. 8**, rounds out the debut album of Kiveli Dörken, who is an equally passionate ensemble pianist. This early masterpiece – Suk wrote it as a 17-year-old – led Johannes Brahms to encourage and assist the young Czech composer. Although it largely follows traditional paths – something that can be heard, among other things, in its motivic references to Dvořák – an individual melodic style can already be detected, one that was to characterise Suk's personal style as an adult: *“When you listen to these two works, which he composed at very different times, you can trace the audible changes in his manner of writing and his creative vision, strongly influenced by the death of his wife, Otilie, at an early age and by that of his mentor and father-in-law Antonín Dvořák.”* The **high-profile quartet** featured on the recording, with the self-declared Suk fan Christian Tetzlaff (vln 1), Florian Donderer (vln 2), Timothy Ridout (vln) and Tanja Tetzlaff (vln), was a *“best-case scenario: their dedication both to musical detail and to emotional extremes was a constant source of inspiration to me.”*

Here, Kiveli Dörken presents a highly-authentic debut album with outstanding repertoire – a long-awaited new album from this Greek whirlwind, who has been a breath of fresh air in the European piano scene for years.

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