

Géza Anda Award Winner Ilya Shmukler Visiting the Rachmaninoffs

Saturday, 25 October 2025, 11:15 a.m.

Sergey Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

Piano Sonata No. 1 in D minor, Op. 28 (40')

I. Allegro moderato

II. Lento

III. Allegro molto

Ilya at RACHMANINOFF'S GRAND PIANO

“Shmukler is a volcano” and “the name of Ilya Shmukler should be remembered” is how the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung described this pianist after his triumph at the Concours Géza Anda 2024 in Zurich, Switzerland, where he won four major awards in addition to the First Prize.

When he was 3, Ilya's mother found him jumping on the bed and singing Robertino Loreti's “Jamaica” perfectly. It was important to his parents, however, to raise their boy as a well-rounded person, so his early years were also spent with school, table tennis, and ballroom dancing before focusing on music.

Since then, Ilya made solo appearances in Europe and North America, and performed with such artists as Mikhail Pletnev, Paavo Järvi, Gábor Takács-Nagy, Marin Alsop, Nicholas McGegan, Junichi Hirokami, Anne-Marie McDermott, Victor Julien-Laferrière, Anton Nel and David Radzynski. Collaborations include the Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich, Musikkollegium Winterthur, the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, Mariinsky, Fort Worth Symphony, Sendai Philharmonic, Kansas City Chamber, Bayer-Symphoniker, and New Music Orchestras.

To have become a finalist and the recipient of the award for the “Best Performance of a Mozart Concerto” at the Cliburn Competition is a milestone in his career, as is his New York debut as a winner of the Carnegie Weill Recital Hall Debut Audition in the

same year 2022. An alumnus of the Moscow State Conservatoire under the guidance of Elena Kuznetsova and Sergey Kuznetsov, Ilya went to study at Park University (USA) with Stanislav Ioudenitch, before moving to Madrid most recently to complete his studies with Professor Ioudenitch.