

Raphaela Gromes
Violoncello

International
Artists &
Tours

„(...) again and again(...) moments full of pure poetry“ (Süddeutsche Zeitung)

Only few cellists are as inspiring as Raphaela Gromes: her cello playing is virtuosic and vibrant, full of passion and technically brilliant, versatile and charming at the same time. She fascinates her audience as soloist as well as duo-partner or member of a wind-quartet, her performance being fantastically challenging and extraordinarily light-footed.

She captivates her audience with her delightful play: *“With the first sound she creates incredible intimacy, her performance being very private, not one note being just “made””, this is how the “Süddeutsche Zeitung” describes her appearance with the Münchner Symphoniker in 2018. “With a slightly hoarse tune she interprets music, senses it. (...) Gromes inspires with her bliss, pairs earthiness with feathery excursions. In her first cadenza she experiments with interesting dissonant intervals, discards them only to present stupendous virtuosity to return to tonal exegesis and again and again creates moments of pure poetry.”*

Raphaela Gromes’ appearances with her duo partner at the piano, Julian Riem, are being celebrated as perfect duets. *“In fact, they find a new, own way of interpreting instrumental duets: Gromes’ and Riem’s chamber music is symbiotic”*, “Die Presse” enthuses after their performance in the Vienna Konzerthaus. Alongside her permanent duo-partner Julian Riem, Christian Altenburger, Isabelle von Keulen, Alexander Lubimov, Patrick Demenga and Mischa Maisky are Gromes’ partners for chamber music.

After her first recording for Faro Classics in 2016, she released her highly praised first album as SONY Classical exclusive artist in fall 2017. Accompanied on the piano by Julian Riem, „Serenata Italiana” she interprets works of the late Romantic composers Giuseppe Martucci, Leone Sinigaglia, Ferruccio B. Busoni and Mario Castelnuovo. Her second album „Hommage à Rossini“ for SONY, released in November 2018 and her third album with the title “Offenbach” released in May 2019 for the 200th anniversary of the composer entered several times the top ten of the the classical charts. “Richard Strauss – Cello Sonatas” is the fourth album with her duo partner Julian Riem to be released in February 2020. As in her previous albums, Raphaella Gromes presents a world premiere recording with the original version of the Strauss Sonata op.6.

Raphaela Gromes acts internationally as SOS Children’s Villages Ambassador.

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Born in 1991 Raphaella Gromes starts taking cello-lessons at the age of four. Aged seven she appears at the encore of one of her parents' concerts, both professional cellists. Her first appearance as soloist was in 2005 with Friedrich Gulda's cello-concerto and was highly acclaimed both by the audience and the press. At the age of 14 she took up her studies at the University of Music and Theatre "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Leipzig as extraordinary student with Peter Bruns. She continued her studies in 2010 at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich with Wen-Sinn Yang, later on with Reinhard Latzko at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. She received valuable input from the master classes with well-known cellists like David Geringas, Yo-Yo Ma, Frans Helmerson, Natalia Gutman, Jens Peter Maintz, László Fenyő, Daniel Müller-Schott, Kristin von der Goltz, Wolfgang Boettcher, Anner Bylsma and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmid.

Previous engagements include music festivals like the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, the Ludwigsburg Festival, the Rheingau Music Festival and the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival. Raphaella Gromes also performed in prestigious concert halls such as the Tonhalle Zurich, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg, the Konzerthaus Berlin and the Vienna Konzerthaus. In spring 2018 she made her debut in the USA with the Fort-Worth Symphony Orchestra conducted by Miguel Harth-Bedoya. Upcoming projects in the 2019/20 season include her debuts with the Münchener Kammerorchester, in Asia with the Macao Orchestra, the New Year's Concert with the Dresden Philharmonic and tours with the Festival Strings Lucerne, her piano partner Julian Riem and the Arcis Saxophon Quartet.

Furthermore, various composers have already dedicated cello concertos to her: the world premiere of Dominik Giesriegel's cello concerto in 2012 was followed in 2013 by Valentin Bachmann's cello concerto performed with the Philharmonic Orchestra Budweis conducted by David Svec. The third world premiere, the double concerto "Chroma" that Mario Bürki had written for Raphaella Gromes and Cécile Grüeblér in 2014, brought her into contact with the Swiss military orchestra. Further on she collaborated with Kent Nagano and the Czech Philharmonic as well as with Christoph Altstaedt and the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn.

Raphaella Gromes has already won numerous prizes: In 2011 she was awarded the *Musikförderpreis des Konzertverein Ingolstadt* (young musicians' scholarship), in 2012 she was first in the Competition Richard Strauss. In 2012 she was granted a scholarship of the *Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes* (German National Merit Foundation) and has been supported by *Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now* since then. Furthermore she received the scholarship of the *Hans and Eugenia Jütting Foundation Stendal*. Raphaella Gromes and her duo cello partner Cécile Grüeblér, received the *Förderpreis der Theodor-Rogler-Stiftung Bad Reichenhall* (young musicians' scholarship) in 2014. In 2016 she was first in the cello solo competition of the German Music Council and became one of this year's young talented musicians who receive special promotion ("Bundesauswahl Junger Solisten"). She was first prize winner of the Kulturkreis-Gasteig competition in 2012 and 2016. In 2019 she was awarded

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the Prize of the German Record Critics for her Offenbach release and the Bavarian Art Promotion Prize.

Raphaela Gromes' cello was built by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume in 1855 and is provided by a private benefactor.

As of Season 2019/2020

Please get into contact with Weigold & Böhm for any changes.