

Raphaela Gromes
Violoncello

“... moments of sheer poetry” (Süddeutsche Zeitung)

Highly virtuosic and full of drive, passionate and technically brilliant, versatile and charming – there are hardly any other cellists who are able to captivate their audiences the way Raphaela Gromes does. Whether as a soloist with orchestra, as a duo in chamber music or alongside a wind quartet, the young cellist always leaves everyone spellbound with both her fantastically ambitious and remarkably effortless playing.

Her first appearance as a soloist took place in the fall of 2005 with the *Cello Concerto* by Friedrich Gulda, a performance for which she received resounding acclaim from both audience and press. As a young student, she began her studies at the age of 14 at the University of Music and Theatre Mendelssohn-Bartholdy in Leipzig with Peter Bruns before continuing with Wen-Sinn Yang at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich in 2010 and later with Reinhard Latzko at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

Awards to her name include First Prize at both the 2012 Richard Strauss Competition and the 2016 Concorso Fiorindo Turin, as well as the German Music Competition Prize in the solo cello category. Also since 2012 she has held a scholarship from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation and has been supported by Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now.

She gained valuable musical inspiration from master classes with renowned cellists such as David Geringas, Yo-Yo Ma, Frans Helmerson, Jens Peter Maintz, László Fenyő, Daniel Müller-Schott, Kristin von der Goltz, Wolfgang Boettcher, Anner Bylsma and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmid.

Raphaela Gromes celebrated her debut at such renowned festivals as the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the Jungfrau Music Festival Interlaken, the Vorsprung Festival of the Audi Summer Concerts in Ingolstadt with Kent Nagano, the Munich Opera Festival, the Marvao International Music Festival, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Rheingau Music Festival, the Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele and the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and has given guest appearances at the Tonhalle Zurich, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Elbphilharmonie and Laeishalle Hamburg, and the concert halls of Berlin, Vienna and Dortmund. In 2018, a tour took her to the United States, in 2019 to Korea, and in 2020 to China.

She followed invitations to Isarphilharmonie in Munich, Tonhalle Zurich, the Philharmonie in Essen, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, she played several times at the Elbphilharmonie and Laeishalle in Hamburg and in the concert halls in Berlin, Vienna and Dortmund. In addition, further concerts in France and a major Central America tour in the summer of 2022.

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In the 2022/23 season, Raphaela Gromes is Artist in Residence at the Staatstheater Augsburg and makes her debuts with the Belgian National Orchestra in Brussels and the hr-Sinfonieorchester.

In addition, she performs at Frauenkirche Dresden, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, with the Tonkünstler-Orchester and in Munich's Prinzregententheater with Festival Strings Lucerne.

Raphaela Gromes' performances together with her pianist Julian Riem are acclaimed for being perfectly-executed duets: “*The two of them really do redefine instrumental duet playing in their own way: Gromes and Riem play chamber music symbiotically*”, raves “Die Presse” following their debut at the Vienna Konzerthaus. In addition to her regular duo partner Julian Riem, other chamber music partners of Gromes include Andreas Ottensamer, the piano duo Yaara Tal and Andreas Groethuysen, Lise de la Salle, Anais Gaudemard, Daniel Dodds, Christian Altenburger, Isabelle von Keulen, Patrick Demenga and Mischa Maisky.

Furthermore, a number of cello concertos have already been dedicated to her: Dominik Giesriegl's *Cello Concerto* in 2012 and Valentin Bachmann's *Cello Concerto* in 2013. Her third world premiere, the double concerto *Chroma* composed for Raphaela Gromes and Cécile Grüber by Mario Bürki in 2014, teamed the young cellist up with the Swiss Military Orchestra.

2022 will include the world premiere of the work *Arcobaldo della vita* for cello, piano and string orchestra by Igor Loboda, dedicated by the composer to the duo Gromes – Riem, and performed with the Georgian Chamber Orchestra Ingolstadt.

Raphaela Gromes has been an exclusive artist with Sony Classical since 2016. Her albums are distinguished by creative programming and an explorative spirit. In fact, Gromes features a world premiere recording, such as Jacques Offenbach's *Hommage á Rossini*, Klengel's *Cello Concerto No. 3* (with the RSB Orchestra and Nicholas Carter on “Romantic Cello Concertos”) or, in 2020, the original version of the *Sonata op. 6* by Richard Strauss.

Her albums have won a number of awards: in 2019 she received the German Record Critics' Award for the CD “Offenbach” as well as the Bavarian Arts Promotion Award in the category “Music and Dance”. In 2020 she received the OPUS KLASSIK in the category chamber music/duo for her CD “Offenbach” together with pianist Julian Riem and was awarded the Diapason Nouveauté for her album “Richard Strauss – Cello Sonatas”. In February 2021 her album “Klengel – Schumann: Romantic Cello Concertos” received the Diapason d'Or.

Her last album “Imagination” was released on October 8, 2021 and immediately after release soared to the number 2 spot in the German classical music charts.

Harald Eggebrecht of the Süddeutsche Zeitung comments on the new release in October 2021:

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“But out of the standstill [caused by corona] she created something virtuous, pulling together an enjoyable, highly virtuosic fairies and trolls set of elegant romantic pieces and releasing it as a CD (Sony).”

The album, already the 6th one by the Opus Klassik award winner, has been featured in the media on numerous occasions, including on WDR's “Kölner Treff”, ZDF's “Volle Kanne” and Morgenmagazin, as well as on NDR's “DAS!” program.

On February 3rd 2023 the new album “Femmes” will be released by SONY with works by important female composers such as Clara Schumann, Nadia and Lili Boulanger, Fanny Hensel and many more.

On the album Raphaella Gromes is accompanied by the Festival Strings Lucerne Orchestra and the pianist Julian Riem, who also wrote all the arrangements on the album.

Raphaella Gromes plays a cello by Carlo Bergonzi provided to her from a private source.

She is a cultural ambassador for SOS Children's Villages worldwide and an ambassador for the José Carreras Leukemia Foundation.

season 2022/2023

Please contact Weigold & Böhm if you wish to make changes to the biography.