



ILLIA OVCHARENKO – Piano

Winner of the 2022 Honens International Piano Competition and the Kissinger KlavierOlymp in 2024, Ukrainian pianist **Illia Ovcharenko** has taken the piano world by storm. Embodying the values of the Honens International Piano Competition, which rewards “The Complete Artist”, Illia Ovcharenko has already been praised for his technical mastery, perseverance against adversity, and a unique intellectual and emotional understanding of musical text.

At the age of 25, Illia has already appeared as a soloist with orchestras including Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Orchestre national d’Île-de-France, Orchestre symphonique de La Monnaie, Luzerner Sinfonieorchester, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice, Duisburger Philharmoniker, Kyiv Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Nova Scotia, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Jerusalem and Haifa Symphony Orchestras. In 2026, he appeared as a soloist with the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and Oksana Lyniv on a European tour including performances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Konzerthaus Berlin. Illia has also given recitals at venues and festivals including Carnegie Hall, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Wigmore Hall, Sendesaal in Hannover, Robert-Schumann-Saal in Düsseldorf, Salle Bourgie and Domaine Forget, as well as Bravo! Vail, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, the Dresdner Musikfestspiele and La Folle Journée de Varsovie.

The 2026-27 season includes debuts with the Copenhagen Philharmonic, the Orchestra del Teatro Comunale di Bologna and the Bursa Symphony Orchestra, as well as Illia’s debut at the Mozartwoche with the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and his Chinese debut with the Ningbo Symphony Orchestra. In recital, the season includes returns to Salle Bourgie in Montreal, Music Toronto, the Israel Conservatory of Music, and Bergson Kunstkraftwerk in Munich, as well as a three-concert residency at Cecilia Concerts in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he will appear in recitals with Louis Lortie, Jacques Forestier and the Viano Quartet. Other partnerships in the season include duo recitals with Vadym Kholodenko in Chur and Liechtenstein, and with Kevin Chen at Koerner Hall in Toronto.

March 2026 saw the release of Illia Ovcharenko’s debut concerto album ‘Manu Sinistra’ with the MDR-Sinfonieorchester and Oksana Lyniv on PENTATONE. The album, of the left-hand concertos of Bortkiewicz, Ravel and Prokofiev received rave reviews in the international press, with Gramophone

remarking *'This is playing of unusual dexterity, colour and force of character'*, while International Piano noted *'Ovcharenko brings out the Ravel's lower-octave smoking-jacket tones with the panache one expects of a Honens laureate, and his way with Prokofiev's dalliances with dissonance would convince anyone – even Wittgenstein.'* Previously, Illia released two recital albums in 2025, *'Whispers and Thunder'* (Steinway & Sons), which received a five-diapason rating in Diapason, as well as featuring in Editor's Choice in Gramophone, and his debut album *'Litany'* (DiscAuverS).

Born in Ukraine, in a non-musical family to a computer engineer mother and an athlete and coach father, Illia Ovcharenko discovered the unattended upright piano sitting in a corner of his house at a tender age. At the age of six, he was taken to a performance of Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto; after the concert, Illia told his mother he wanted to be a pianist when he grew up and began his formal musical tuition. Success rapidly followed, and he made his concert debut at the National Philharmonic of Ukraine at the age of 12 before moving to Kyiv to attend the Kyiv Lysenko State Music Lyceum for gifted children. He then went on to study in Israel with Arie Vardi at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music in Tel Aviv and is currently pursuing a master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover. He was a Classeek Ambassador for the 2024-25 season.

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