

IOANA ILIE

Pianist & Composer

Born in Sibiu, Romania, in 1988, Ioana Ilie started playing the piano at 4 and soon won numerous national and international festivals and competitions. Winning the Constantin Silvestri Scholarship-Competition in 2005 led to a year-long scholarship at Pocklington School in York, England. She has performed as a soloist in Romania, Bulgaria, Germany, Holland, Spain, England, Switzerland, the US and Japan. She has completed her studies at the Music Academy Basel with Adrian Oetiker (piano), Balz Trümpy (composition), Rudolf Lutz (improvisation) and Jan Schultsz (Lied and song accompaniment). She has also enjoyed valuable guidance from distinguished names such as Stephen Kovacevich (USA), Piotr Anderszewski (Poland) and Fabio Bidini (Italy).

Ioana is mostly known for the art of classical improvisation which is ever-present in her solo concerts. Besides her solo performances, the young Romanian is also a tireless composer as well as chamber music and Lied pianist. She particularly enjoys working and performing alongside the soprano Sarah Baxter since 2019. With their collective composition "The Foreigner" (a song cycle based on poems by Sarah set into music by Ioana), the musicians managed to bring their musical collaboration to an even higher extent when they premiered it in 2021. Another world premiere of her music took place in 2012 when Ioana's Legend for String Quintet was performed by the internationally renowned „Phoenix“ Ensemble and their conductor, Jürg Henneberger in Basel. Her work for piano solo "Pisces" has been published in 2017 by the CCC Music Company in Colorado Springs, United States of America. Her debut CD "On Cloud Ten" comprises works by L. van Beethoven, F. Chopin and her latest composition for piano solo, "The Clouds", a collection of 10 musical depictions, one for every cloud formation.

Ioana Ilie taught improvisation at the Music Academy Trossingen, Germany from 2011 to 2015 and in February 2015 she became a piano teacher at the Music School, Basel. The Notenstein La Roche's Young Musicians Programme awarded her a three-year scholarship in spring 2014.