

Julien Gernay, piano

A multi-faceted musician, warm and communicative pianist Julien Gernay appears as a singular artist with an unusual career path.

The Namur (Belgium)-born Julien Gernay starts studying music very early and attends the Nice Conservatory, where he is granted a First Prize in both violin and piano. He then develops his playing in piano at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris with Michel Béroff, Christian Ivaldi, Jean-Claude Penneret and Daria Hovora. He obtains a First Prize in Piano and Chamber Music, as well as a Diploma of higher education. He also enjoys several opportunities to work with Dmitri Bashkirov, Jean-Claude Penneret, Menahem Pressler and Janos Starker.

Half-finalist at the 2007 “Queen Elisabeth” international piano competition, winner of the 2003 Lisboa “Vendôme Prize” international piano competition, “Tarrazi” Prize and 2001 “Drouet-Bourgeois” Prize of the “Fondation de France”, he also is a laureate of the Banque Populaire Group (Natixis) Foundation and of the Singer-Polignac Foundation.

His numerous performances acclaimed by the critic as well as by the audience, bring him to appear in prestigious concert halls throughout the world. The Vézère, Menton, l’Empéri, Périgord Noir Festivals, the Montpellier Opera-Orchestra, the Wissembourg and “Musicales du Golfe” Festivals count among his French references.

His eclectic and sharp repertoire as a soloist, whose interpretation always is authentic and deep, is as broad as his chamber music repertoire: his particular affinity for the latter, combined with his double musical experience both as a pianist and a violinist, makes him an accomplished chamber musician and a chamber music partner very much in demand.

Julien Gernay is namely Romain Leleu’s preferred partner for his piano/trumpet duo. He also often performs on the most prestigious Japanese scenes alongside cellist and favourite musician of the Japanese audience Dai Miyata, with whom Julien has been playing since they played together for the first time in 2009.

Julien Gernay also performs alongside such internationally renowned musicians as Nemanja Radulovic, Rolland Pidoux, Maja Bogdanovic, Pierre Fouchenneret, the Modigliani, Ebène, Voce, or recently Zemlinsky and Szymanowski quartets, as well as worldwide acclaimed organist Olivier Latry.

Edvard Grieg’s sonatas, recorded together with violinist David Galoustov, count among his recordings with the Lyrinx label. The Magellan Trio, which Julien Gernay formed together with Pierre Fouchenneret, violin and Antoine Pierlot, cello, also displays two recordings with the Explora label, dedicated resp. to the Mendelssohn trios and to British composer Roger Steptoe, alongside Olivier Latry.

His decisive encounter with Dai Miyata led them to record their album “Rencontre”, which was published with Universal Music end of 2015 and focuses on French and Japanese works, as a mirror of their musical encounter and their friendship.

Their new album to be published in September 2017 dedicated to concert works for cello and piano by Fauré, Saint Saëns, Piazzolla, Glazounov, Bruch, provides Julien Gernay and Dai Miyata with a new opportunity for a Japanese tour.

From September 2017 on, Julien Gernay is a faculty member at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris.