

OLGA CHELOVA

Pianiste



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BIOGRAPHIE



Olga Chelova, a pianist and composer born in Odessa, began playing the piano at the age of four. She trained at the legendary Stolyarsky School in Odessa, whose alumni include musicians such as Emil Gilels and David Oistrakh. At seventeen, she graduated with honours and performed Johannes Brahms's *Piano Concerto No. 2* at her graduation concert.

She continued her studies at the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, followed by the Mozarteum University Salzburg. She subsequently studied with Professor Grigory Gruzman at the University of Music FRANZ LISZT Weimar, who became one of her principal mentors.

A prizewinner at **more than twenty international competitions** in Germany, Italy, France, Lithuania and Ukraine, Olga Chelova notably won the **Grand Prix** at the Druskininkai International Competition, where she performed Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor* under the direction of Tadas Šileika. She has also collaborated with pianist and conductor Philippe Entremont, who said of her: "Olga is, without any doubt, a great talent."

Her concert career has taken her to several leading European venues, including the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Großes Festspielhaus Salzburg, the Tonhalle Zurich, the Liederhalle Stuttgart and the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome. She has also appeared at festivals in Germany, Italy, France and Switzerland.

Orchestral repertoire occupies an important place in her artistic activity. It ranges from Haydn and Mozart to the twentieth century and includes, among other works, Beethoven's *Piano Concertos Nos. 1, 3 and 5*, both *Chopin concertos*, Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A minor*, Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, Grieg's *Piano Concerto*, both *Brahms concertos*, Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2* and Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 1*.

Olga Chelova's discography likewise reflects the breadth of her repertoire. Her first album, released on NEOS, brings together Schumann, Liszt and Brahms: it includes Schumann's *Kreisleriana* and Liszt's *Grandes Études de Paganini*, as well as Brahms's *16 Waltzes, Op. 39* for piano four hands with Philippe Entremont. The recording received **three nominations for the 2022 Opus Klassik Awards**. Critics

praised her “extraordinary maturity, inner passion and metaphysical poetry” (*Musique Classique*) as well as her “mental clarity and flawless virtuosity” (*DIE TONKUNST*).

On her second album, *Reflections on Chopin*, Olga Chelova brings together **Frédéric Chopin’s 27 Études** — Opp. 10 and 25 together with the three Nouvelles Études — as a complete cycle, a project whose origins she traces back to her years of study at the Stolyarsky School in Odessa. She associates each Étude with a personal poetic title, creating a narrative thread through the cycle as a whole.

Chamber music also holds an important place in her career. Since 2024, Olga Chelova has performed regularly as a duo with Grigory Gruzman. Their collaboration has notably attracted the attention of the Frankfurt press.

Olga Chelova is also the **founder and artistic director** of the **Mörfelden Music Festival**, established as a platform for young artists and now a fixture in the cultural life of Mörfelden-Walldorf and the Rhine-Main region. She donates the fees she receives from the festival to children’s hospices.

Alongside her career as a pianist, Olga Chelova is also a composer. Her works include a minimalist opera and a cantata addressing the subject of bullying.

A Steinway Artist since 2022, Olga Chelova has also made audio and audiovisual recordings for NDR Kultur, OFTV and Radio X.

REPERTORY

PIANO CONCERTOS WITH ORCHESTRA

COMPOSER	WORKS
J. Haydn	Piano Concerto in D major, Hob. XVIII:11
W. A. Mozart	Piano Concerto in E-flat major, K. 271 "Jeunehomme" Piano Concerto in D major, K. 451 Piano Concerto in D minor, K. 466 Piano Concerto in C major, K. 467 Piano Concerto in E-flat major, K. 482 Piano Concerto in A major, K. 488 Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491 Piano Concerto in C major, K. 503
L. v. Beethoven	Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15 Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37 Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73
F. Liszt	Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, S. 124 Piano Concerto n°2 in la majeur, S.125
F. Chopin	Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21
R. Schumann	Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54
F. Mendelssohn	Piano Concerto No. 1, Op. 25
E. Grieg	Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16
J. Brahms	Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15 Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 83
P. Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23
S. Rachmaninoff	Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18 Piano Concerto n°3 in ré mineur, op. 30
S. Prokofiev	Piano Concerto No. 1 in D-flat major, Op. 10
C. Saint-Saëns	Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 22

CHAMBER MUSIC

COMPOSER	WORKS
J. Haydn	Piano Trios in G major and C major
W. A. Mozart	Piano Quartet in G minor, K. 478 Piano Quartet in E-flat major, K. 452

L. v. Beethoven	Cello Sonata No. 3 in A major, Op. 69 Cello Sonata No. 4 in C major, Op. 102 No. 1 Piano Trios, Op. 1: E-flat major, G major and C minor Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11 Piano Trio in D major, Op. 70 Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 70 Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 97 Piano Trio in E-flat major, WoO 38 Piano Trio in B-flat major, WoO 39 Piano Quartet in E-flat major, WoO 36 No. 1
F. Schubert	Violin Sonata in G minor, Op. 137 No. 3 / D 408 Fantasy in F minor, D 940
F. Mendelssohn	Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 49
R. Schumann	Fantasiestücke for clarinet and piano, Op. 73 Five Pieces in Folk Style for cello and piano, Op. 102 Märchenerzählungen for clarinet, viola and piano, Op. 132
J. Brahms	Piano Quartet in G minor, Op. 25 Cello Sonata in E minor, Op. 38 Trio for piano, clarinet (or viola) and cello in A minor, Op. 114 Sonatas for viola/clarinet and piano in F minor and E-flat major, Op. 120 16 Waltzes, Op. 39 Sonata for Two Pianos, Op. 34b
A. Arensky	Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 32 Suite for Two Pianos "Silhouettes", Op. 23
A. Dvořák	Piano Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 87
L. Janáček	Pohádka for cello and piano
M. Reger	Trio for violin, viola and piano, Op. 2 No. 1
C. Debussy	Violin Sonata in G minor Cello Sonata in D minor Première Rhapsodie for clarinet and piano Lindaraja for two pianos
M. Ravel	Ma Mère l'Oye for piano four hands La Valse for two pianos Violin Sonata
F. Poulenc	Sextet for wind quintet and piano
C. Franck	Violin Sonata in A major, FWV 8
P. Tchaikovsky	Piano Trio, Op. 50
S. Rachmaninoff	Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor Suite No. 1, Op. 5 Suite No. 2, Op. 17
S. Prokofiev	Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major, Op. 94
D. Shostakovich	Cello Sonata in D minor, Op. 40
S. Wolfensohn	Violin Sonata

A. Piazzolla	The Four Seasons Oblivion Libertango (original version)
A. Zubel	Chamber Piano Concerto

DISCOGRAPHY

YEAR	ALBUM	REPERTOIRE	ARTISTS	LABEL
2021	Schumann · Liszt · Brahms 3 nominations · Opus Klassik 2022	Schumann — <i>Kreisleriana</i> , Op. 16 Liszt — <i>Grandes Études de Paganini</i> Brahms — 16 Waltzes, Op. 39, for piano four hands	Olga Chelova, piano Philippe Entremont, piano (Brahms)	NEOS 32102
2026	Reflections on Chopin Recorded on a Steinway D	Chopin — <i>Études</i> , Op. 10 Chopin — <i>Études</i> , Op. 25 Chopin — <i>Trois Nouvelles Études</i> <i>27 Études in total</i>	Olga Chelova, piano	NEOS 32605

PRESS REVIEWS

DIE TONKUNST

Michael Struck

“Olga Chelova’s technically sovereign playing convinces through its balance between an overarching vision and attention to detail, a burning heart and a cool head.”

Translated from German.

GIESSENER ANZEIGER

Sascha Jouini · 2025

“A true musical poet, who turns the Études into an especially rewarding listening experience.”

On Chopin’s Études, Op. 10 and Op. 25. Translated from German.

NIESTETALER KAMMERKONZERTE

Christof Krieg · 2025

“The extreme demands — rapid passagework, chains of octaves and wide leaps — are mastered brilliantly, as is the sensitive and poetic interplay with Grigory Guzman.”

On Liszt’s Piano Concerto No. 2. Translated from German.

MUSIQUE CLASSIQUE

Thierry Vagne

“All the brilliance and sense of phrasing one could wish for; what colours in La Campanella!”

On her interpretation of Liszt. Translated from French.

OSTFRIESEN-ZEITUNG

“Impressive and captivating, this exceptional young pianist does justice to the composer and his era with remarkable sensitivity.”

Translated from German.

WASSERTURM MÖRFELDEN-WALLDORF

Review of the Mörfelder Musikfestival · 2024

“Her interpretation of Scarbo from Ravel’s Gaspard de la nuit stands out for its incandescent temperament and pianistic perfection.”

The review also reports a standing ovation following the performance. Translated from German.

SILENCE AGENCY

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