

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano

**Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor,
Op. 27, No. 2, "Moonlight" (1801)**

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770–1827)

- I. Adagio sostenuto
- II. Allegretto
- III. Presto agitato

Gaspard de la nuit, M. 55 (1908)

Maurice Ravel
(1875–1937)

- I. Ondine
- II. Le Gibet
- III. Scarbo

INTERMISSION

Nocturne (2008)

Dobrinka Tabakova

Halo (1999)

Tabakova

Piano Sonata No. 21 in C major, Op. 53, "Waldstein"

Beethoven

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Introduzione. Adagio molto
- III. Rondo. Allegretto moderato—Prestissimo

*Isata Kanneh-Mason appears by arrangement with Enticott Music Management
Isata Kanneh-Mason records exclusively for Decca Classics*

*This concert is made possible by the generous support of the
Wendy Shattuck Young Artist Fund and is dedicated this year
by Wendy to the memory of Pamela Petri Humphrey.*

ISABELLA
STEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM



NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

The stellar pianist member of the great English Kanneh-Mason family of musicians, Isata Kanneh-Mason, takes a moment off the concerto stage to bring today's program to Calderwood Hall: two of Beethoven's best-loved sonatas, Ravel's astonishing three-movement tour de force, and a pair of shorter works by Bulgarian-British composer Dobrinka Tabakova.

—George Steel, *Abrams Curator of Music*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason** offers eclectic and stimulating recital programs with repertoire encompassing Haydn and Mozart, Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann, Chopin and Brahms, to Gershwin and beyond. In concerto, she is equally at home in Felix Mendelssohn and Beethoven as in Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff.

Kanneh-Mason is in high demand from concert halls and orchestras worldwide. In July 2024, she was invited to perform at the First Night of the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and conductor Elim Chan, a performance which resulted in stellar reviews in the mainstream press. Kanneh-Mason went on to appear as concerto soloist with the European Union Youth Orchestra and Iván Fischer in summer 2024, performing Ernst von Dohnányi's *Variations on a Nursery Tune* at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Highlights of the 2025–26 season include Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto with Bar Avni and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and with Petr Popelka with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra at the Rudolfinum. Kanneh-Mason makes further debuts with the Naples Philharmonic and Seattle Symphony and returns to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Canada.

Kanneh-Mason continues her collaboration with her brother, Sheku, for a European duo recital tour in February, taking in Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Berlin, Geneva, Turin, Amsterdam, and London's Wigmore Hall. In the Americas, the duo will perform in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Montevideo, Boston, Washington, DC, Cleveland, and New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Kanneh-Mason also appears in solo recital and in chamber music at Wigmore Hall, with further solo recital appearances at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston; the Brucknerhaus Linz; Powell Hall at the Jack C. Taylor Music Center in St. Louis; Music Center De Bijloke in Ghent; the Howland Chamber Music Circle in New York; Oslo Opera House; and a return to the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, among others.

In 2024–25, Kanneh-Mason gave performances with bass-baritone Gerald Finley in the Czech Republic and Germany; appeared in solo recital at the Lucerne Festival, Festival International Piano aux Jacobins in Toulouse; the Schumann-Haus in Düsseldorf, PHIL Haarlem, and on tour across the US; and performed with the London, Bergen, Bremen, and Duisburg philharmonics, the North Carolina Symphony, and on tour with the Staatskapelle Weimar and the Residentie Orkest.

Kanneh-Mason is a Decca Classics artist and has recorded four solo albums for the label: *Romance* (2019), *Summertime* (2021), *Childhood Tales* (2023), and *Mendelssohn* (2024). Her most recent release presents music from two Mendelssohn siblings, including the glittering first piano concerto by

Felix and the long-lost *Easter Sonata* by his exceptionally talented but overlooked elder sister Fanny, alongside transcriptions of some of Felix's most famous music by Rachmaninoff and Liszt.

Kanneh-Mason has received many awards, including the coveted Leonard Bernstein Award from the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and an Opus Klassik award for best young artist. She also enjoys composing and arranging and released two albums of her favorite works for intermediate and advanced piano students through ABRSM Publishing in 2023.



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

RENAISSANCE STRING QUARTET

Sunday, May 17

THURSDAY NIGHT MUSIC:

NEW MASADA QUARTET

Thursday, May 28, at 7pm

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum resides on the homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe, who belong to this place and continue to regard these lands and waters as sacred.

Music at the Gardner is supported by Manitou Fund. The Museum thanks its generous concert donors: The Coogan Concert in memory of Peter Weston Coogan; Fitzpatrick Family Concert; James Lawrence Memorial Concert; Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert; David Scudder in memory of his wife, Marie Louise Scudder; Wendy Shattuck Young Artist Concert; and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert. The piano is dedicated as the Alex d'Arbeloff Steinway. The harpsichord was generously donated by Dr. Robert Barstow in memory of Marion Huse, and its care is endowed in memory of Dr. Barstow by The Barstow Fund. Music at the Gardner is also supported in part by Barbara and Amos Hostetter, Joseph Mari, Sallie and Jim McGregor, Nicie and Jay Panetta, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc., and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is supported by the state of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Kindly turn off all electronic devices during the concert and refrain from any photography or filming in the hall. Also, please note the location of the emergency exit doors: across the hall from the doors through which you entered.