

## **Gregor Willmes on Irma Gigani's concert in Berlin on September 19, 2025**

"The opening concert of the new season of the C. Bechstein Piano Recitals at the Konzerthaus Berlin was devoted entirely to Baroque music: alongside Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, which she performed in a compact version with a significantly reduced number of repeats, Irma Gigani had programmed three *Pièces de clavecin* by Rameau and five Scarlatti sonatas. The Georgian pianist's deliberate and restrained use of the pedal in Baroque works became particularly apparent in contrast with the G minor Minuet by Georg Friedrich Handel, which she brought to heavenly life in the Romantic sound world of Wilhelm Kempff.

At the Konzerthaus, Gigani also revealed herself to be a master of counterpoint, achieving an incredible clarity of voicing through articulation and the finest dynamic nuances, and giving each voice virtually its own character and significance. Thus, in the *Goldberg Variations*, inner voices occasionally emerged that I had never heard in quite this way before.

She demonstrated particularly impressively that expressive legato can also be achieved without extensively raising the dampers, especially in the slower Scarlatti sonatas (such as the highly expressive Sonatas in B-flat minor, K. 87, and D minor, K. 32). She mastered the fast sonatas with great virtuosity and elegance. Congratulations on this wonderful debut at the Konzerthaus Berlin!"

Translation from German text