

A promotional photograph for a musical performance. On the left, violinist Chloé Kiffer is shown from the waist up, holding a violin. She has blonde hair and is wearing a black top. To her right, pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine is shown from the chest up, wearing a black suit and shirt. They are both looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred street scene with people and buildings. Overlaid on the image is the text 'RAVEL & STRAVINSKY' in a light blue serif font, with an orange ampersand. Below this, the names of the performers and their instruments are written in a smaller, italicized serif font. At the bottom center, the Steinway & Sons logo and name are displayed.

# RAVEL & STRAVINSKY

*Chloé Kiffer, violin*

*Alexandre Moutouzkine, piano*



STEINWAY & SONS

# RAVEL & STRAVINSKY

French violinist Chloé Kiffer and Russian-American pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine bring compositions by Maurice Ravel and Igor Stravinsky to dazzling life in a collaboration rich in rarely explored musical and personal connection.

Ravel and Stravinsky held different musical philosophies and forged different artistic paths in response to their native cultures (Basque and Russian, respectively) and their life experiences that ultimately landed them in Paris. And yet, both exhibited an appreciation of local and distant cultures and sought to build connections between preceding musical traditions and the current trends around them. Each contributed profoundly to the neoclassical sensibilities that defined turn-of-the-century Europe and the world of music well into the 1900s.

But the overlap and connections deepen still. Recent scholarship reveals that Robert Craft, Stravinsky's long-time assistant and the author of *Stravinsky: Discoveries and Memories* (2013), wrote about the little-known relationship between the two composers: "Ravel and Stravinsky were, of all artists, the most successful in concealing their sexuality. The two were time-to-time lovers in the early Diaghilev years." (p. 172). This quite plausible tryst between Ravel and Stravinsky has inspired other scholars to search for clues as to how much and what else might have been exchanged between these two early 20th-century musical powerhouses.

While we await more information about what might have transpired between Ravel and Stravinsky, Kiffer and Moutouzkine focus our attention on the very real connections between their music.

— Adam Hockman



Early success led **CHLOÉ KIFFER** to solo and orchestra engagements throughout Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, and Asia, in prestigious concert halls like Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Beethoven Hall in Bonn, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Hall, Tel Aviv Opera, and Beijing National Center. In October 2015, Ms. Kiffer made her debut at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. She has claimed top prizes at numerous national and international competitions.

Ms. Kiffer graduated from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris with a bachelor's degree at 17. She earned postgraduate degrees from Manhattan School of Music under Patinka Kopec and Pinchas Zukerman, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University. Throughout her studies, Chloé worked with pedagogues such as Hagai Shaham and Joshua Epstein. She is a laureate of the Bleustein-Blanchet Foundation.

Ms. Kiffer guest performs and teaches at festivals around the world. She has been closely associated with the Miami Music Festival, the Heifetz International Music Institute (faculty and Artist-in-Residence), and the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy. Ms. Kiffer is an enthusiastic chamber musician who frequently collaborates with artists such as Pavel Vernikov, Gustav Rivinius, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Timothy Eddy, Philippe Muller and the Emerson String Quartet. She joined the Manhattan School of Music Precollege faculty in 2019.

In recognition of Russian-American pianist **ALEXANDRE MOUTOUZKINE**'s early participation in the prestigious Van Cliburn International Competition, where he won the Special Award for Artistic Potential at age 19, the Dallas Morning News stated that Mr. Moutouzkine "played Brahms' Op. 117 Intermezzi more beautifully, more movingly, than I've ever heard them. At once sad, tender and noble, this was playing of heart-stopping intimacy and elegance." Since then, Mr. Moutouzkine went on to win top prizes in more than 20 international competitions, including the Naumburg, Cleveland, Montreal, New Orleans, Panama, Iturbi (Valencia), Maria Canals (Barcelona) and Arthur Rubinstein (Tel Aviv). He also won the Astral Artists' 2009 National Auditions. He has appeared as a soloist with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Brno Philharmonic Orchestra of the Czech Republic, Israel Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Radiotelevision Orchestra of Spain, among many other orchestras around the world.

Alexandre Moutouzkine holds a Master's degree and post-graduate degrees from Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Solomon Mikowsky. He holds undergraduate degrees from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover and Russia's Nizhny Novgorod Music Academy. Most recently Alexandre received an "Artist of the Season Award" from Chamber Music International in Dallas, his *Piano Music of Cuba* album on the Steinway & Sons label was included in top 10 classical music recordings of 2017 by WRTI, and another CD received the "Cubadisco 2017" for the best classical music recording in Cuba. He also received a "Distinguished Alumni Award" from Manhattan School of Music, where he was appointed its faculty member in September 2013.







# RAVEL & STRAVINSKY

Recorded 2018 – 2019 at Steinway Hall, New York City.

Producer: Jon Feidner

Engineer: Lauren Sclafani

Assistant Engineer: Melody Nieun Hwan

Editor: Kazumi Umeda [Tracks 4 – 8, 10 – 12]

Production Assistant: Renée Oakford

Mixing and Mastering: Daniel Shores

Equipment: Pyramix using Merging Technologies Horus Converters;  
mixed and mastered through Merging Technologies Horus Converter

Microphones: DPA 4006A, Schoeps MC6/MK2

Executive Producer: Jon Feidner

Art Direction: Jackie Fugere

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Photos: Jiyang Chen

Piano Technician: Lauren Sclafani

Piano: Steinway Model D # 597590 (New York) [Tracks 1, 2, 3 & 9]

Piano: Steinway Model D # 607799 (New York) [Tracks 4 – 8, 10 – 12]

# RAVEL & STRAVINSKY

*Chloé Kiffer, violin*

*Alexandre Moutouzkine, piano*

MAURICE RAVEL (1875 – 1937)

Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in G major (1923 – 1927)

- 1 I. Allegretto 8:02
- 2 II. Blues 5:36
- 3 III. Perpetuum mobile 4:19

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882 – 1971)

Firebird Suite (1919; Arrangement for Piano: Alexandre Moutouzkine, 2009)

- 4 I. Introduction 3:24
- 5 II. Dance of the Firebird 1:12
- 6 III. Infernal Dance 4:10
- 7 IV. Lullaby 3:39
- 8 V. Final Hymn 3:01

MAURICE RAVEL

- 9 Sonata for Violin and Piano “Posthume” (1897) 15:17

IGOR STRAVINSKY

Petrouchka: Three Movements for Piano (1921)

- 10 I. Danse russe 2:38
- 11 II. Chez Pétrouchka 5:09
- 12 III. La semaine grasse 8:51

Playing time: 65:40



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