



Pianist **Jura Margulis** has been internationally recognized for his compellingly communicative performances, as well as for the range of his tonal palette and his consummate virtuosity. Reviewers have praised the “absolute authority” of his interpretations and the sense of “controlled obsession” he transmits at the keyboard (*Fono Forum*). The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* noted that his aesthetic is both “impulsive and contemplative.” The *Los Angeles Times* praised his “excellent pianism” and called him “highly musical”. The *Washington Post* applauded his “titanic reserves of sheer power” and his “effortless spontaneity.” The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* called his performance “... the perfect Beethoven for the audience of our time ... sweeping lyricism ... imagination, originality, and good taste pervaded every phrase.”

His orchestral appearances include performances with the *Russian National Orchestra* at the *Hollywood Bowl*, the *Montreal Symphony Orchestra* under Charles Dutoit, the *Südwestrundfunk Orchestra*, the *National Orchestra of Venezuela*, the *Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra*, and the *Prague Symphony Orchestra*. He has played in numerous festivals, including the *Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival*, the *Berliner Festwochen* at *Berlin Philharmonic Hall*, the *Internationale Sommerakademie Mozarteum* in Austria, the *Verbier*, the *BSI*, and the *Sommets du Classique* Festivals in Switzerland, and the *Argerich-Beppe Music Festival* in Japan. He has won prizes in more than a dozen international competitions, including *Busoni* in Italy and *Guardian* in Ireland. He is also a recipient of the esteemed *Pro Europa* prize awarded by the European Foundation for Culture.

Recent years have brought him to New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Dallas, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, Little Rock, Tulsa, Carmel, Austin, Phoenix, San Jose, Minneapolis, Memphis, and New Orleans in the US, as well as abroad to Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Berlin, Tübingen, Freiburg, Bologna, Salzburg, Barcelona, Lugano, Crans-Montana, Sapporo, and Bangkok. Active as a chamber musician, Margulis has performed recitals with, among others, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, the soloists of the Moscow Virtuosi, members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Moscow String Quartet. He has also concertized with Martha Argerich on two pianos in Germany, Japan, and the USA.

Margulis has recorded seven CDs for *Sony*, *Ars Musici*, and *Oehms Classics*, covering a wide spectrum of repertoire. These recordings have attracted substantial attention, including selection as a “reference recording” by *Fono Forum*, and inclusion on the “Bestenliste” of the *Deutschen Schallplattenkritik* (German Recording Review). His CD featuring piano transcriptions of music from Bach to Caplet (2007), received 10 out of 10 for “artistic quality” from *KlassikHeute*. The accompanying review applauded his “ability to structure the Bach Chaconne, to build momentum and at the right moment to gently abate ... not since Horowitz’s old RCA recording have I encountered a performance of Saint-Saens’ *Danse Macabre* that so grippingly leaps from the stage, as here in Jura Margulis’ own transcription.” The review also noted that Margulis’ own transcription of a little-known piece by André Caplet “should, like Ravel’s own transcription of his *La Valse*, claim a place in the repertoire of young pianists.” *Klassik.com*, also giving the CD its highest rating, raved that Margulis “cannot be praised enough.” Margulis’ latest CD was released in fall of 2009; “This CD is one of the best played, best interpreted, best programmed recitals of piano music of the year,” writes *All Music Guide*.

Margulis is a third generation pianist and teacher and piano pedagogy is an integral part of his artistic vision. His yearly master classes in the US and abroad, including courses in Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Austria, Russia, and Japan, center around his pedagogical concept: *The Unified Piano School, A synthesis of piano pedagogy and performance traditions*, which bridges the Russian School’s concentration on sound, imagination, and physical technique, and the German School’s focus on structure, rhythmic coherence, and style. He has lectured on this concept at numerous forums including the *World Piano Pedagogy Conference* and the *International Summer Academy* at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Margulis is the executive director of the “*International Piano Academy Freiburg*”, a summer master class in Germany, and artistic director of the *Fulbright Concert Competition*, an international piano contest in Fayetteville.

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Jura Margulis was raised in Germany, where he studied with his father, Dr. Vitaly Margulis, at the *Musikhochschule Freiburg*. He was also a student at the prestigious *Fondazione per il Pianoforte* in Cadenabbia at Lake Como in Italy. He moved to the United States to study with Leon Fleisher at the *Peabody Conservatory* in Baltimore, and made the US his home. Margulis is the inaugural holder of the *Emily J. McAllister Endowed Professorship in Piano* at the J.W. Fulbright College of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where he lives with his wife Elizabeth Hellmuth Margulis, who does research in the cognitive science of music, and their sons Alexander and Nikolai.