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| barbican | Thursday 16 January 2020  **Igor Levit has been announced as Featured Artist in the Barbican Presents 2019-20 classical music season**  Sun 26 Jan 2020 – Thu 13 Feb 2020 – Wed 19 Feb 2020  Piano virtuoso and ‘one of the essential artists of his generation’ (New York Times) **Igor Levit** has been named as ***Featured Artist*** in the ***Barbican Presents*** **2019-20** classical music season. He will be giving three different concerts between 26 Jan and 19 Feb 2020, including solo recital and chamber performances, which will give an insight into all facets of the artist’s prowess.  The music Igor Levit has selected for each of the programmes not only demonstrates his prodigious talent, but each piece has personal meaning to him. ‘Every concert is in one way or another an aspect of my life and a deep declaration of love towards everyone involved,’ Levit explains.  Igor Levit is committed to humanism and often speaks out publicly on politics, as he sees his art as inseparable from the things happening in the world around us. ‘Art and politics is just the way I am as a human being,’ he says. ‘I’ve always walked around with my eyes wide open.’  [**Igor Levit plays Shostakovich**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/igor-levit-plays-shostakovich)  [**Sun 26 Jan 2020 7.30pm, Barbican Hall**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/igor-levit-plays-shostakovich)  **Igor Levit *piano***  **Shostakovich 24 Preludes and Fugues**  The opening concert on 26 Jan 2020 sees Levit in recital, performing Shostakovich’s 24 Preludes and Fugues, which are rarely played in full. Technically complex, this will take performer and audience on an exciting journey.  ‘On many levels it’s very demanding but I couldn’t care less,’ Levit says. ‘One should hear this piece in full because it’s an extraordinary experience. The first 23 preludes and fugues are like a conversation with yourself, they are deeply unique and personal pieces and then we get to number 24 and it’s full of this feeling of “we the people”, we’re all together.’  [**Igor Levit plays Messiaen and Shostakovich**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/igor-levit-plays-messiaen-and-shostakovich)  [**Thu 13 Feb 2020 7.30pm, Milton Court**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/igor-levit-plays-messiaen-and-shostakovich)  **Igor Levit *piano*, Markus Hinterhãuser *piano*, Ning Feng *violin*, Julia Hagen *cello*, Klaus Reda *percussion*, Andreas Boettger *percussion,* Moritz Wappler** ***percussion*, Jeremy Cornes *percussion***  **Messiaen Visions de l’Amen, Shostakovich (arr. Derevianki & Pekarsky) Symphony No 15**  For the second concert on 13 Feb Levit has chosen some of his friends to perform with him and share some of the spotlight. He says he is ‘honoured’ to be performing with people whom he would ‘trust my house keys with’. The programme includes Messiaen’s *Visions de l’Amen* and a chamber version of Shostakovich’s 15th Symphony (arr Derevianki & Pekarsky), for which Levit will be joined by **Markus Hinterhäuser** (piano), **Ning Feng** (violin), **Julia Hagen** (cello), **Klaus Reda** (percussion), **Andreas Boettger** (percussion), **Moritz Wappler** (percussion) and **Jeremy Cornes** (percussion). Levit says he chose the Shostakovich because of his ‘close relationship to the composer and his music’. ‘This chamber version is transcendent and intense. It’s a great deal of fun to play and so exciting.’  [**Igor Levit plays Beethoven, Bartók & Brahms**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/igor-levit-plays-beethoven-bartok-and-brahms)  [**Wed 19 Feb 2020 7.30pm, Barbican Hall**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2020/event/igor-levit-plays-beethoven-bartok-and-brahms)  **Igor Levit *piano*, Markus Becker *piano,* KlausReda *percussion,* Andreas Boettger *percussion***  **Beethoven *Grosse Fugue*, Brahms *Variations on a Theme of Haydn*, Bartók Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion**  The third concert in the series on 19 Feb features a performance of Beethoven’s *Grosse Fuge*, Brahms’s *Variations on a Theme of Haydn* and Bartók’s *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion* for which Levit is joined by three of his former teachers: **Markus Becker** (piano), who was his chamber music teacher as well as **Klaus Reda** (percussion) and **Andreas Boettger** (percussion).  Igor Levit is also scheduled to appear as the soloist in a concert with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, performing Mozart’s Piano Concerto No 22 in E-flat major, K482 at the Barbican Hall on 7 April 2020. However, following the passing of maestro Mariss Jansons at the end of 2019, plans for this concert date are currently under discussion.  **ENDS**  **Notes to Editors**  Barbican Box Office: 0845 120 7550 [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk/)  **Press Information**  For any further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact the Barbican’s music communications team:  **Annikaisa Vainio-Miles, Senior Communications Manager** t - +44 (0)20 7382 7090 e – [annikaisa.vainio-miles@barbican.org.uk](mailto:annikaisa.vainio-miles@barbican.org.uk)  **Sabine Kindel, Communications Manager**  t - +44 (0)20 7382 6199  e – [sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk](mailto:sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk)  **Edward Maitland Smith, Communications Officer**   t - +44 (0)20 7382 6196 e – [Edward.MaitlandSmith@barbican.org.uk](mailto:Edward.MaitlandSmith@barbican.org.uk)  **Etan Kinsella, Communications Assistant**  t - +44 (0)20 7382 6138 e – [etan.kinsella@barbican.org.uk](mailto:etan.kinsella@barbican.org.uk)  **About Igor Levit**  Born in Nizhni Nowgorod in 1987, Levit moved to Germany in the mid-90s, and Berlin is his current base.  He has performed with the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orkest and has toured internationally with the Tonhalleorchester Zürich and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Further orchestral engagements will see him on tour in Europe with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and returns amongst others to the Cleveland Orchestra, the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.  An exclusive recording artist for Sony Classical, Levit’s latest recording – Beethoven: The Complete Piano Sonatas – was released in September 2019 to great critical acclaim.  **About the Barbican**  A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](http://www.barbican.org.uk/) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over a million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](https://www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/our-people/careers) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, public spaces, a library, the Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2019/event/conservatory), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.  The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](http://lso.co.uk/); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](https://www.bbc.co.uk/symphonyorchestra); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](http://www.aam.co.uk/) and [Britten Sinfonia](http://www.brittensinfonia.com/), Associate Producer [Serious](http://www.serious.org.uk/), and Artistic Partner [Create](http://createlondon.org/). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](http://www.boyblueent.com/site/), [Cheek by Jowl](http://www.cheekbyjowl.com/), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](http://drumworks.co.uk/) and [Michael Clark Company](http://www.michaelclarkcompany.com/). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](https://www.laphil.com/) are the Barbican’s International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](https://www.aco.com.au/) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](http://www.jazz.org/JLCO/) are International Associate Ensemble.  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