

BIOGRAPHY PIANIST BENEDICTE PALKO.

Pianist BENEDICTE PALKO was born in Stavanger, Norway, of Norwegian-Hungarian parents, and has called Seville, Spain, home since 2002. More than a performer, Benedicte is a musical architect, meticulously selecting projects that resonate with her artistic convictions and foster a deep connection with her audience and fellow musicians.

Her career path has been a heartfelt pursuit of artistic depth over commercial gain, driven by an unwavering devotion to chamber music — her great passion and true calling. Much like nurturing a thriving garden or her vibrant greenhouse, Benedicte approaches her artistry and her work with young musicians with a profound sense of care, cultivating growth and creating a welcoming space for talent to flourish.

Renowned for her technical brilliance, exquisite tone, and melodic sensitivity, Benedicte's profound and honest music-making captivates listeners and critics alike. This dedication to the art form extends to her membership in the prestigious Norwegian historic society of performing artists, "Norsk Tonekunstner Samfund." Her musical journey was ignited and inspired by her teachers José Ribera and legendary pianist, György Sebök.

Benedicte is a highly sought-after chamber musician, celebrated for her empathetic and insightful partnerships with esteemed artists such as violinists Philippe Graffin and Mirijam Contzen, violist William Coleman, cellists Salvador Bolón Edo and Lluís Claret, and flutist Paco Varoch. A champion of the next generation, she actively collaborates with and mentors young Spanish and international musicians.

A dedicated and inspiring educator, Benedicte has a sincere pedagogical interest. Since 2004 she teaches at MUSIKENE (www.musikene.net), the Superior Conservatory of Music of the Basque Country, in Chamber Music and other subjects. She is newly appointed Head Coordinator of all Chamber Music and Ensembles at MUSIKENE. Benedicte is also frequently leading piano and chamber music masterclasses at prestigious institutions like the University Mozarteum in Salzburg, Anton Bruckner University Linz, and universities across Spain, the rest of Europe and Asia, as well as maintaining a thriving studio in Seville for piano solo and chambermusic. Her students are consistently recognized among Spain's most promising young talents. Her expertise is also sought in competitive settings, where she has served as a jury member for the renowned "PREMIO JAÉN" International Piano Competition and as President of the jury for the "Abate Marchena" chamber music competition.

Beyond the stage, Benedicte's acumen as an Artistic Director and Founder is evident in her unique program curation and exceptional organizational prowess, ensuring every project she undertakes is truly remarkable. As the visionary founder and artistic director of the International Chamber Music Festival Joaquín Turina in Seville, Benedicte has cultivated a vibrant hub for world-class musicianship. The festival stage has seen her collaborate with an impressive roster of

talents including Esther Hoppe, Nicolas Dautricourt, Gary Hoffman, István Vardái, the KUSS Quartet, Tanja Becker-Bender, Nicolas Dautricourt, Kristóf Baráti, Tobias Feldmann, Gary Hoffman, István Vardái, Julian Steckel, Torleif Thedéen, James Dunham, Yura Lee, Lise Berthaud, José Luis Estellés, Gordan Nikolić...

Expanding her innovative approach, 2019 saw the launch of "PALKO & Co" in Stavanger, Norway, an annual chamber music project seamlessly blending literature, nature, and gastronomy. Musicians on this stage has been Marianne Beate Kielland, Eivind Ringstad, Lars Anders Tomter, Marianne Thorsen, Meesun Hong Coleman, Olatz Ruiz de Gordejuela, Vashti Hunter, Salvador Bolón, Julia Gállego, Øyvind Gimse, among others.

Benedicte's artistic footprint spans continents, with recitals, chamber music concerts, and orchestral appearances across Scandinavia, Europe, the USA, and Asia. Her impactful 2018 Asian debut as Guest Leader with the Daejeon Philharmonic Orchestra in South Korea led to further successful performances and masterclasses at the Korea National University of Arts in Seoul. In 2025 she will be returning to South Korea for the third time.

Benedicte's comprehensive musical education began at the Norwegian Academy of Music (Einar Steen-Nøkleberg), continuing at the Royal Danish Academy of Music (José Ribera) where she made her official soloist debut. A US-Fulbright Foundation scholarship then led her to Indiana University School of Music, Bloomington, USA, where she completed the highest soloist diploma, the Artist Diploma, under the tutelage of legendary pianist György Sebök.

Her discography includes Prokofieff's Sonata in F minor and Shostakovich's Preludes for violin and piano with Sakari Tepponen, complemented by numerous live recordings for national Spanish and Norwegian radio.

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