

Kun-Woo Paik

Kun-Woo Paik made his debut at age ten, performing Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Korean National Orchestra. By age 15, he moved to New York to study with Rosina Lhévinne at The Juilliard School. He further studied in London with Ilona Kabos and in Italy with Guido Agosti and Wilhelm Kempff. Paik won the 1971 Naumburg Piano Award and was the Gold Medalist at the Busoni International Piano Competition. His international career launched after his New York debut, performing Ravel's complete piano works at Lincoln Center and his orchestral debut at Carnegie Hall.

In 1974, Paik made his European debut with three consecutive recitals at Wigmore Hall in London, followed by a recital at the Berlin Philharmonie in 1975. He has collaborated with conductors such as Lorin Maazel, Mariss Jansons, Long Yu, Sir Neville Marriner, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Jiří Bělohlávek, Mikhail Pletnev, Dmitri Kitaenko, James Conlon, John Nelson, and Eliahu Inbal. Paik has performed with orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, London Symphony, BBC Symphony (Last Night of the Proms 1987), Orchestre de Paris, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Hungarian National Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, RAI Italia, Warsaw Philharmonic, and English Chamber Orchestra.

Paik's recordings include works by Scriabin, Liszt, the complete solo piano works of Mussorgsky, and Rachmaninov's complete works for piano and orchestra with Vladimir Fedoseyev for BMG. His complete Prokofiev Piano Concertos recording received the "Diapason d'or" of the Year in 1993 and the "Nouvelle Academie du disque" Award in France.

As an exclusive Decca artist, Paik recorded Busoni's Transcriptions of Bach's organ works in 2000 to celebrate J.S. Bach's year, followed by an album of Fauré's Piano

Works, which won major prizes in France. In 2005, he began a project to record all 32 Beethoven Sonatas for Decca. The first volume (Sonatas No. 16-26) was released in August 2005. In 2007 and 2017, Paik performed all 32 Beethoven sonatas in eight consecutive recitals in China and Korea. In 2019, after releasing his recording of Chopin's Complete Nocturnes with Deutsche Grammophon, he held 15 recitals across Korea titled 'Kun-Woo Paik and Chopin.' In 2020, he successfully completed another recital series, 'Kun-Woo Paik and Schumann,' to celebrate his recording of Schumann's works with Deutsche Grammophon.

In September 2022, Paik released a recording of Granados's Goyescas with Deutsche Grammophon, inspired by Francisco Goya's works. He visited the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts Museum in Madrid to view Goya's paintings before recording the album and performed Granados's Goyescas.

Recently, Paik added another milestone with the release of "Mozart: Piano Works 1.", "Mozart: Piano Works 2."

Kun-Woo Paik lives in Paris and is the Artistic Director of the Emerald Coast Music Festival in Dinard(France) and was made the 'Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres' by the French Government in 2000.