

Virgile Van Essche
*Pianist, accompanist and
repetiteur*
Based in Brussels

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Studies

Virgile Van Essche is a Belgian pianist born in 1992. He was introduced to music at the age of eight. After some years studying in Brussels at the Académie d'Uccle with Evelyn Groynne, he was accepted in 2010 in the world famous **Saint-Petersburg State Conservatoire** named after **Rimsky-Korsakov**. He stayed in Russia in the class of **Galina Fedorova** for 6 years, after what he graduated from the school with high distinction in 2016. His interest for new artistic discoveries lead him to London for a Master of Arts in accompaniment and chamber music at the **Royal Academy of Music**, London. Here he continued his studies with such renowned teachers as Malcolm Martineau, Michael Dussek, James Baillieu, Audrey Hyland and Roy Howat. Virgile is awarded a great distinction for his final recital in may 2018 and is graduated from RAM the same year.

At the moment Virgile perfects his skills at **Brussels Royal Conservatoire** with the Belgian pianist and coach Philippe Riga.

Competitions

Virgile's performances were appreciated in many competitions. In duo with Indian baritone Darwin Pakash, he was awarded the second prize at the Richard Lewis Competition (RAM), he received the third prize for accompaniment at the Schumann Lied Competition (RAM) ; his duos with Scottish baritone Niall Anderson, French soprano Mariamielle Lamagat and English cellist Rebecca McNaught were very highly commended.

In September 2018, in collaboration with Belgian soprano Juliette Allen, he was a finalist at the 5th Georges Enescu competition in Paris.

In October the same year, with French soprano Mariamielle Lamagat, Virgile was awarded 4 prizes 'à l'unanimité du jury' at the 11th international lied competition 'Les Saisons de la Voix', in Gordes, France : the prize Karine Deshayes, the prize Philippe Cassart (a broadcast on french radio France Musique) and two other prizes (concert, masterclass with Susan Manoff).

Masterclasses

Virgile was chosen to participate to the 2018 edition of the prestigious **Georg Solti Academia for Repetiteurs** and spent ten days on San Gorgio island in Venice, working with such personalities as conductor Richard Bonyng, repetiteurs James Vaughan, Jonathan Papp, Pamela Bullock and Annette Saunders.

He went to Thu, Denmark, and took part in the 2019 edition of the **North Sea Vocal Academy**, where he worked with teachers Helene Gjerris, Audrey Hyland and Mandy Demetriou.

In duo with the Slovenian mezzo-soprano Tina Drole, Virgile was selected for the **Udo Reinemann International Masterclass**, happening in Brussels' La Monnaie/De Munt throughout the season 2019-20.

Throughout his studies, Virgile followed masterclasses by great pianists and singers Helmut Deutsch, Susan Manoff, Simon Keenlyside, Angelika Kirchschrager, Polina Leschenko, Erik Berchot, Stéphane Demay and others.

Performances

Virgile took part in many concerts in the music festival '**Il pleut des cordes**' in Belgium, accompanying great musicians from Saint-Petersburg (Andreï Efimovsky, cello) and London (Patrick Terry, contralto).

He was also invited to **Kaliningrad**, Russia for a concert Belgium/Russia.

After the Spring Concert of the music festival 'Les saisons de la voix' in Gordes, **France**, Virgile will appear there again at the End of the Year Concert accompanying sopranos Mariamielle Lamagat and Jeanne Lefort.

Virgile is leading an intense musical activity at the Foundation Frison-Horta in Brussels, where he performed with cellist Thibault Lavrenov, and others.

In collaboration with talented singers and instrumentalists as well as soloist, Virgile is familiar with the Belgian, European and Russian stages. He performed in **Brussels** at Botanique, at Palace for Fine Arts, at Atelier Marcel Hastir, Pianos Maene, in **Saint-Petersburg** at the philharmonic hall Glinka, in **London** at St. James' Piccadilly Church, in **Paris** at Alfred Cortot Hall, ...

Languages

Virgile's huge interest for languages and their culture is intimately linked to the development of his repertoire. His love for French mélodies, German lieder, English songs and Russian romances is absolutely related with his will to speak these languages and live these cultures. Virgile is a native **French** speaker, he is also fluent in **Russian, English** and is proficient in Spanish, Dutch, German and Italian.