



## AVI AVITAL - *mandolin*

*"A musician who recognizes no boundaries except those of good taste and who has the artistry to persuade listeners to follow him anywhere."*  
Gramophone

Acknowledged by The New York Times for his "*exquisitely sensitive playing*" and "*stunning agility*", Grammy-nominated mandolinist Avi Avital is one of the world's most exciting and adventurous musicians. He is deeply committed to building a fresh legacy for the mandolin through virtuosic performance in a range of genres and commissioning new works for mandolin.

Avi Avital is internationally regarded for his performances at venues including Carnegie Hall (Weill Hall), Lincoln Center, Berlin Philharmonie, KKL Luzern, Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing and the Wigmore Hall. He has appeared as soloist with the Berliner Symphoniker, Orchestre National de Montpellier, Oxford Philomusica, Szczecin Philharmonic, Potsdam Kammerakademie, Philharmonischer Kammerorchester Berlin, Metropolis Ensemble NY, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Geneva Camerata, Israel Philharmonic, I Pomeriggi Musicali di Milano and the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. He has collaborated extensively with artists such as Giora Feidman, Dawn Upshaw and Richard Galliano and has also been featured at the Tanglewood, Luzern, Spoleto, and Ravenna summer Festivals.

Avi Avital is the first mandolin player to receive a GRAMMY nomination in the category "Best Instrumental Soloist" (2010) for his recording of Avner Dorman's Mandolin Concerto (Metropolis Ensemble/Andrew Cyr). He has won numerous competitions and awards including Germany's ECHO Prize for his 2008 recording with the David Orlowsky Trio and the AVIV Competition (2007), the preeminent national competition for Israeli soloists. Born in Be'er Sheva, southern Israel in 1978, he began learning the mandolin at the age of eight and soon joined the flourishing mandolin youth orchestra founded and directed by his charismatic teacher, Russian-born violinist Simcha Nathanson. He later graduated from the Jerusalem Music Academy and the Conservatorio Cesare Pollini in Padova, Italy where he studied the original mandolin repertoire with Ugo Orlandi.

Avital has released various recordings in the disparate genres of klezmer, baroque and contemporary classical music. He now records exclusively with Deutsche Grammophon and his debut release featured his own transcriptions of J S Bach Concertos for harpsichord and violin. His second disc "Between Worlds" introduced chamber music compositions from Ernest Bloch and De Falla to traditional Bulgarian Folk tunes and was released in 2014 to critical acclaim. He records Vivaldi Concertos with the Venice Baroque Orchestra for release in 2015.

Recent highlights include Concerto performances at the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Performances of "Between Worlds" at the Salzburg Festival, Vienna Konzerthaus, Poisson Rouge NY, Bremen Sendesaal, Rolandseck, Seoul, Castellar Festival and the Riga Festival whilst recitals included the Rheingau Festival, Musikfest Bremen, Schloss Elmau, Bristol Proms, Carnegie Hall Presents and Vancouver Recital Society.

Forthcoming engagements include Concertos with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Kremerata Baltica, Venice Baroque Orchestra, Kölner Akademie, Geneva Camerata, Israel Camerata, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Wrocław Philharmonic, Hamburg Symphony and I Musici di Roma and an extensive tour of the USA and South America with the Venice Baroque Orchestra. He makes his solo recital debut at the Wigmore Hall and other recitals include the University of Chicago, Stanford University, Cremona, Salle Gaveau, Globe Theatre in London, Manchester Chamber Concerts Society, Dortmund Konzerthaus, Montreal Bach Festival, Verbier Festival, Buenos Aires, Taiwan, Cartagena Festival (Colombia) in collaborations with Mahan Esfahani, Ksenija Sidorova, Ray Chen, David Greilsamer, Andreas Scholl and the Danish String Quartet.

Instrument: Arik Kerman (1998)  
 Strings: Thomastik-Infeld (154, Medium)