

JONIAN ILIAS KADESHA

VIOLIN

‘Just when you think it can’t be more colourful or charismatic, Kadesha brings more joy, more physicality’

Gramophone

Jonian Ilias Kadesha is a Renaissance musician in the diversity and creativity of his intellectual interests and music-making. His studies in philosophy and rhetoric influence the stylistic accuracy of his interpretations, whether of early or contemporary music, and his rich imagination is clear both in the sound worlds he creates and the projects he curates as concerto soloist, soloist-director and chamber musician.

Kadesha has performed widely as soloist throughout Europe, with a concerto repertoire spanning Martinů, Mozart, Shostakovich, Bartók, Stravinsky, Dvořák and Beethoven, among others. He has appeared with leading ensembles including Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Sir András Schiff, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic with Jonathan Bloxham, Tapiola Sinfonietta with Ryan Bancroft, and Slovenian Philharmonic conducted by Aziz Shokhakimov. Other collaborations include Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Athens and Thessaloniki State Orchestras and MDR Sinfonieorchester. Recent highlights feature performances with the Beethoven Orchester Bonn under Dirk Kaftan, and a performance of Beethoven’s Triple Concerto in Warsaw under Kirill Karabits.

He is increasingly recognised for his accomplishments as soloist-director and collaborates frequently with leading chamber orchestras such as Aurora Orchestra, Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Slovak Philharmonic and London Mozart Players. He recently play-directed Martinů’s Second Violin Concerto with Scottish Chamber Orchestra. His approach to the classical orchestral canon is informed by his chamber music playing and he often improvises his own cadenzas and ornamentation.

Kadesha’s flair for programming is evident in his chamber music projects. He curated a six-concert series for the Leeds International Concert Season (2024–25) and founded his own KOSMOS Tirana Music Festival in Albania. He is Artistic Director of Caerus Chamber Ensemble, whose flexible line-up is drawn from the younger generation of outstanding European instrumentalists. He has collaborated with renowned musicians such as Martha Argerich, Steven Isserlis, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Nicolas Altstaedt, Gábor Takács-Nagy and Antje Weithaas. He has given recitals in venues including the Wigmore Hall, Louvre, Berlin Philharmonie and Salle Moliere Lyon.

Co-founder of the award-winning Trio Gaspard, he appears regularly with the group at festivals and

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MAESTRO*ARTS*

venues around the world. This season, they give the world premiere of a new Triple Concerto by Francisco Coll with the Orquesta de Valencia. He is also a member of the Kelemen Quartet.

Kadesha's curiosity for repertoire is wide-ranging, as demonstrated by recordings he has made for Linn Records. His debut solo album featured Bach's Partita in D minor alongside Helena Winkelman's Ciaccona and works by Biber, Schnittke, Kurtág and Auerbach. His follow-up 'Suite Italienne' with CHAARTS Chamber Orchestra, featuring Giovanni Sollima's violin concerto TYCHE along with works by Vivaldi and Stravinsky, received outstanding five-star reviews applauding his 'boundless imagination of sound' (Musica), his 'stylistic confidence and taste' (rbbKultur) and declaring him 'one of the most eccentric and fascinating violinists on the international scene' (Musica).

Born in Athens of Albanian and Greek heritage, Kadesha studied from a young age at Musikhochschule Würzburg, followed by Kronberg Academy, where he completed his Masters in 2020. He has studied with Antje Weithaas, Salvatore Accardo, Grigori Zhislin and Ulf Wallin, and has taken part in masterclasses with Ferenc Rados, Steven Isserlis, Ivry Gitlis, Leonidas Kavakos and Eberhard Feltz. He studied chamber music with Hatto Beyerle in Hannover.

Kadesha plays a copy of Antonio Stradivari 'Lord Amherst of Hackney' ex Kreisler 1734 made by Paul Belin.