

alexandros

## KAPELIS



**BIOGRAPHY (full version)** - 913 words  -

Born of a Greek father and a Peruvian mother, Alexandros Kapelis grew up in both countries and enjoyed the advantages of a dual heritage. He began playing the piano when he was five years old and at the age of 20 moved to New York, where early in his career he was recognized by the International Press Service (IPS) as “one of the most promising young classical musicians of any nationality working in New York today.” The Washington Post also praised him for his “scintillating performance,” whereas the Piedmont Post (San Francisco) noted him for his “full range of technique in rendering the total palette of keyboard colors.” He has appeared throughout Europe, the United States, Latin America, the Middle East, and Japan.

As a **soloist**, Kapelis’ highlights include appearances with the Royal Philharmonic in London and the Prague Symphony Orchestra, amongst others. Currently, he is enjoying a collaboration with the acclaimed ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic, the **Berliner Barock Solisten**. The musicians are recording the Complete Bach Concertos for keyboard and orchestra (BWV 1052-1058), followed by a world tour throughout 2021 and 2022, starting in London’s Barbican Hall (June 2021), followed by Asia (November-December 2021), Europe (March and May, 2022) and the United States, Canada and Mexico (November-December 2022).

An active **chamber music** player, he has collaborated with renowned artists that include violinist Renaud Capuçon, violist Yuri Bashmet, cellist Mischa Maisky, clarinetist Stanley Drucker, trumpeter Sergei Nakariakov, as well as ensembles from the Philharmonia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic (*Philharmonic Chamber Soloists*). He came to the attention of Martha Argerich and in 2007 he moved to Brussels, where he spent four years near the great pianist and participated in several editions of the Lugano *Martha Argerich Project*. Next year, Kapelis appears again with Argerich performing the Poulenc Concerto for two pianos with the Xi’an Symphony Orchestra (October 2021); he also performs with the *Philharmonisches Streichquartett Berlin*, cellist Jian Wang, and other musicians.

As a **recitalist**, Kapelis made his mark with an unprecedented program inspired by Greek mythology. This recital took him to venues such as the Kennedy Center in Washington, the United Nations in New York, the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, the Chicago Cultural Center, the *Centro Nacional de las Artes* in Mexico City, the *Salle Cortot* and UNESCO in Paris, the Lugano Festival, a recital tour through Japan, and more recently, the leading Italian venues, including the *Parco della Musica* (Rome), *Auditorium LaVerdi* (Milano), *Teatro della Pergola* (Florence), *Politeama Garibaldi* (Palermo), *Teatro Olimpico* (Vicenza), and *Palazzo Labia - RAI Veneto* (Venice). Unanimously acclaimed by the press as a program created by “an artist of genius” (*Giornale di Vicenza*) and “a pianist building a career of mythic proportions” (*Oakland Tribune*), Kapelis’ “Greek Myth Recital” was chosen for the transfer-of-power ceremony of the Presidency of Council of the European Union in 2014, in the presence of the Italian and Greek Presidents of the Republic and the Council of Ministers of both countries. On the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the independence of Greece in 2021, Kapelis reprises his “Greek Myth” with performances in the leading museums that house the most important collections of Greek works from classical antiquity, bringing to life the celebrated sculptures, mosaics, and frescoes.

Off stage, Kapelis is known for his understanding of a wide range of subjects that have allowed him to bridge music with history, the visual arts, the environment, and cultural identity. In this capacity, he has acted as **Artistic Director/Advisor** for various institutions. He teamed up with French cultural icon Pierre Cardin as Artistic Director of the chamber music series at the *Pierre Cardin Festival de Lacoste* and has also collaborated with the *Athens Megaron* in their chamber music programming. In 2014 he was given the title of Artist in Residence in Venice by the *Malipiero Foundation*. He is currently in charge of creating and leading an international music festival in Venice, set to debut in September of 2021.



Alexandros Kapelis holds a Bachelor's degree from the American College of Greece, and a Master's degree from the Mannes College of Music in New York. His main teachers have been Rosa Basurco in Peru, Dimitri Toufexis in Greece, Diane Walsh and Julius Levine in New York, and Noretta Conci and Gwenneth Pryor in London. He also attended the conducting masterclasses of Bruno Aprea (Rome Arts Academy) and Gianluigi Gelmetti (Accademia Chigiana). He conducted Handel's opera *Giulio Cesare* at the Ernen Festival and nowadays leads Bach and Mozart piano concertos from the keyboard.

Since early in his career, Alexandros Kapelis has been involved with various **humanitarian causes**. He has performed in numerous benefit concerts, most notably in London for Fight for Sight (a leading UK charity dedicated to medical research), in New York for the United World Colleges (under the patronage of HRH Prince Pavlos of Greece), and in Athens for ELEPAP (Greek Society for the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Disabled). The environment is also a cause close to Kapelis' heart; under the aegis of UNESCO, in 2019 he founded PROJECT ECO (Earth Connections Orchestra), an initiative that combines music and the environment. On a personal note, Alexandros Kapelis founded *The Greco-Latin Trust* in order to help young musicians from countries facing economic difficulties, specifically Greece and Latin America. Inspired by his years as a student in New York, the Trust provides a living stipend to a full-time piano student every year.

Alexandros Kapelis is a Steinway Artist. He lives between Venice and London.

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## BIOGRAPHY (medium-length version) - 467 words -

Born of a Greek father and a Peruvian mother, Alexandros Kapelis began playing the piano when he was five years old. At the age of 20 he moved to New York, where early in his career he was recognized by the International Press Service (IPS) as "one of the most promising young classical musicians of any nationality working in New York today." The Washington Post also praised him for his "scintillating performances," whereas the Piedmont Post (San Francisco) noted him for his "full range of technique in rendering the total palette of keyboard colors." He is a graduate from the American College of Greece (Bachelor's degree) and the Mannes College of Music in New York (Master in Music).

He has appeared throughout Europe, the United States, Latin America, the Middle East, and Japan, including as **soloist** with the Royal Philharmonic in London and the Prague Symphony Orchestra. **Chamber music** partners have included Renaud Capuçon, Yuri Bashmet, Mischa Maisky, Stanley Drucker, Sergei Nakariakov, as well as ensembles from the Philharmonia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic (*Philharmonic Chamber Soloists*). He came to the attention of Martha Argerich and in 2007 he moved to Brussels, where he spent four years near the great pianist and participated in several editions of the Lugano *Martha Argerich Project*. As a **recitalist**, Kapelis made his mark with his "Greek Myth" program in venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Herbst Theatre, the Chicago Cultural Center, the *Centro Nacional de las Artes* in Mexico City, various venues in Japan, the *Salle Cortot*, UNESCO, the United Nations, the Lugano Festival, and the main Italian theatres.

Currently, Kapelis is recording the complete Bach solo keyboard concertos (BWV 1052-1058) with the acclaimed ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic, the **Berliner Barock Solisten**, with upcoming performances in London's Barbican Hall (June 2021), Asia (November-December 2021), Europe (March and May 2022) and the USA, Canada and Mexico (November-December 2022).

Off stage, Kapelis has acted as **Artistic Director/Advisor** for various institutions. In 2016, he teamed up with French cultural icon Pierre Cardin for the chamber music series at the *Pierre Cardin Festival de Lacoste*. He has also collaborated with the *Athens Megaron* and was given the title of Artist in Residence in Venice, where he is currently in charge of creating and leading an international music festival set to debut in September of 2021. Kapelis has performed in benefit of various **humanitarian causes** that include medical research, the environment, education, and people with disabilities. In 2018, he founded PROJECT ECO, an initiative under the patronage of UNESCO that combines music and the environment. Inspired by his financial circumstances as a student in New York, he also founded *The Greco-Latin Trust* to help young music students from countries facing economic difficulties, specifically Greece and Latin America. Alexandros Kapelis is a Steinway Artist.

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## BIOGRAPHY (short version) - 315 words -

Born of a Greek father and a Peruvian mother, Alexandros Kapelis has appeared throughout Europe, the United States, Latin America, the Middle East, and Japan, including as **soloist** with the Royal Philharmonic in London and the Prague Symphony Orchestra. Early in his career he was recognized by the International Press Service (IPS) as “one of the most promising young classical musicians of any nationality working in New York today.” **Chamber music** collaborations include Renaud Capuçon, Yuri Bashmet, Mischa Maisky, Stanley Drucker, Sergei Nakariakov, as well as ensembles from the Philharmonia Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. He came to the attention of Martha Argerich and spent four years near the great pianist, participating in several editions of the Lugano *Martha Argerich Project*. As a **recitalist**, Kapelis made his mark with his “Greek Myth” program in venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Herbst Theatre, the Chicago Cultural Center, the *Centro Nacional de las Artes* in Mexico City, the *Salle Cortot*, UNESCO, the United Nations, the Lugano Festival, and the main Italian theatres.

**Currently**, Kapelis is recording the complete Bach solo keyboard concertos with the acclaimed ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic, the **Berliner Barock Solisten**, with upcoming performances in London’s Barbican Hall and Asia in 2021, as well as Europe, the USA, Canada and Mexico in 2022.

As **Artistic Director/Advisor**, Kapelis has collaborated with French cultural icon Pierre Cardin at the Lacoste Festival, the *Athens Megaron*, and was given the title of Artist in Residence in Venice, where he is currently in charge of creating and leading an international music festival set to debut in September of 2021. He has supported various **humanitarian causes** that include medical research, handicapped people, the environment with his own PROJECT ECO (under the patronage of UNESCO), and education through *The Greco-Latin Trust*, which he founded to help young musicians from Greece and Latin America. Alexandros Kapelis is a Steinway Artist.

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## REVIEW EXCERPTS

"Kapelis threw himself forcefully into the wild raptures of Claude Debussy's "The Joyous Island" and expertly limned the classical poise of his "Dancers of Delphi."

THE WASHINGTON POST (Washington, D.C.)

"There is in his playing a precision of rhythm, a dedication to clarity and a clear attentiveness to form. One can almost see him listening to the composer's voice. This was especially obvious in the concluding piece of the program, Rachmaninoff's Études-Tableaux, Op. 33. Closest to Kapelis' essence as a musician, these miniature tone poems require dramatic expressiveness, but it is an expressiveness best served by containment and control... Kapelis engaged that challenge with a driving energy, under which must beat a passionate heart."

PIEDMONT POST (San Francisco)

"A rarity among his generation, Kapelis plays expressively and evocatively. His emotional and psychological explorations into music make him one of the most promising young classical musicians of any nationality in New York today. "

INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE- IPS (New York)

"Kapelis possesses an undeniable temperamental vein and a dominion over the Lutoslawski Paganini Variations for piano and orchestra. This work is full of mortal difficulties, even for such a well-equipped instrumentalist. Kapelis overcame all these traps with great success."

EL PORVENIR (Monterrey, Mexico)

"Kapelis does not indulge aimlessly from one note to the other, neither does he linger unnecessarily. Thus, he sounds neither vulgar nor flashy. On top of that, he masters lyricism and passion convincingly and with bravura."

THE ORIZZONT (Valetta, Malta)

"The performance of the Schumann piano concerto responded to the passionate impulse that echoed in the youth of Alexandros Kapelis, exulting the lyricism and the dialogue between the piano and the orchestra. The soloist took advantage of his technique, energy and vitality, qualities that augur him a brilliant future in his musical career. "

EL COMERCIO (Lima, Peru)

"Kapelis proved to be a well-schooled performer of Scarlatti, achieving the always-difficult adaptation from the current piano to the baroque clavicembalo. The artist once more was faithful to the pristine text... Kapelis displayed his traits as a virtuoso of the keyboard, without any concession to the public nor to decadent sentimentality."

DIARI DE BALEARS (Mallorca, Spain)

"It is needless to point out the huge demands that Mozart places on the performer regarding maturity of expression, stylistic fidelity, cleanliness, and structural balance. Even so, Kapelis passed this "trial by fire" with an ease that truly impressed us. With his clean, sure technique, with his evenness, and especially with his correct weight of sound (so it would not overpower but neither fall into "angelic sweetness"), Kapelis created an interpretation that displayed not only his pianistic talent, but also his indisputable expressive maturity."

ESTIA (Athens, Greece)

"Robust, of a brilliant virtuosity, but also stylistically attentive, was the interpretation of Alexandros Kapelis. [Mendelssohn Quartet for piano & strings, Op. 3]"

KATHIMERINI (Athens, Greece)

"It was moving to listen to Greek pianist Alexandros Kapelis, a fully structured musician with strength and sensitivity, but also with ethos, revealed not only by the quality of his sound, but also by his bearing and body language. Last night, he stood worthily on stage next to the great Martha Argerich in Bach's Concerto [BWV 1065]."

KATHIMERINI (Athens, Greece)

"Kapelis has no equal in Rachmaninoff, but he also plays the classics with astonishing taste."

MARTHA ARGERICH, Interview in "Classica"