

PRESS RELEASE  
27 April 2018

## ***The Nutcracker and I, by Alexandra Dariescu* to tour worldwide**

**Children's TV presenter Lindsey Russell narrates CD and accompanying book, released digitally on Friday 27 April 2018 and physically on Friday 4 May 2018 on Signum Records**

**Performed and produced by:** Alexandra Dariescu  
**Directed by:** Nick Hillel  
**Art director and director of animation:** Adam Smith  
**Choreography:** (live and animation) by: Jenna Lee  
**Ballerina:** Désirée Ballantyne  
**Technical producer:** Sander Loonen  
**Video design produced by:** Yeast Culture  
**Project trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CS6Jg1pwuck>

Having received critical acclaim on its world premiere in London in December 2017, pianist **Alexandra Dariescu** takes her innovative multi-media performance for piano soloist, ballerina and digital animation, *The Nutcracker and I, by Alexandra Dariescu*, on tour both nationally and internationally throughout Europe, China and Australia.

Dariescu wants to challenge the traditional concert format and reach out to new audiences who might not have considered coming to a classical concert before. She has done this by creating her own personal take on the much-loved story of The Nutcracker which sees herself re-imagined as Clara: from little girl dreaming to concert pianist.

On stage will be a grand piano, played by Dariescu herself, and a ballerina behind a see-through gauze screen. Projected onto the gauze and bringing the story to life are exquisite digital animations, all hand drawn and created in advance by **Yeast Culture**. They follow the music and engage live with the pianist and ballerina as they 'dance' across the screen. The audience will feel like they are actually in and a part of the Nutcracker story.

Children's TV presenter, **Lindsey Russell** narrates the disc and accompanying book of *The Nutcracker & I, by Alexandra Dariescu*, released on **Signum Records** digitally on **Friday 27 April 2018** and physically on **Friday 4 May 2018**. The story has been written by the notable classical music journalist and author **Jessica Duchon** with artwork created by **Yeast Culture**, illustrated by **Adam Smith**. The additional narration further extends Dariescu's desire to reach out to new audiences and a preview can be heard [here](#).

Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet music features throughout both the live performance and disc, and includes favourites such as *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Arabian Dance, Chinese Dance, Pas de*

*Deux*, and the *Flower Waltz* in 15 virtuosic arrangements by **Mikhail Pletnev, Stepan Esipoff, Percy Grainger** and three brand new variations by **Gavin Sutherland**.

Alexandra Dariescu commented *"I have always believed it to be my responsibility as a young artist to reach out to the widest audience possible and to make classical music accessible to the digital generation. Technology opens up new and innovative ways to be creative and fusing it with the Nutcracker story is part of my contribution to ensuring the genre moves forward whilst keeping at its core the music I wholeheartedly believe in. I am so excited to be reaching a truly international audience on this tour and I hope that by telling my story, through the Nutcracker, that others will be inspired to follow their own dreams as well as enjoy classical music."*

Beginning at the **Perth Festival** on **Saturday 19 May 2018**, Dariescu continues on to the **Cheltenham Music Festival** on **Saturday 14 July 2018**, the **Ryedale Festival** on **Sunday 15 July 2018**; and arrives at **The Grand, Clitheroe** on **Tuesday 17 July 2018**.

In the autumn, *The Nutcracker and I*, by **Alexandra Dariescu** closes the **London Piano Festival** at Kings Place as this year's special family concert on **Sunday 7 October 2018**, before its first international tour dates in Romania. From **Monday 19** until **Thursday 26 November 2018**, Dariescu performs shows in five national theatres across the country: Iasi (**19 November**); Sibiu (**21 November**); Cluj (**22 November**); Timisoara (**24 November**); and Bucharest (**26 November**) and then there are four performances at the Vienna Konzerthaus on **Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 December 2018**. Prior to concert in Hamburg at the **Laeiszhalle** on **Monday 17 December 2018**, Dariescu performs 5 shows at the **Philharmonie Luxembourg** on **15 & 16 December**. It then returns to the UK for two shows at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on **Saturday 8 December 2018** and one at the Malvern Theatre the following day on **Sunday 9 December 2018**.

The international dates continue with a five city tour of China from **Wednesday 19 December** to **Monday 7 January**, including Shanghai on **Thursday 20** and **Friday 21** December. The tour then travels to the **Göteborgs Konserthus**, Sweden on **Saturday 12** and **Sunday 13 January 2019** and after that, to the **Melbourne Recital Centre**, Australia. Dariescu then returns to Europe for two performances of the show on **Sunday 27 January 2019** at the **Centre for Fine Arts**, Brussels (BOZAR).

For complete listings for Alexandra's schedule, please visit <http://alexandradariescu.com/> or Alexandra's general management Konzertdirektion Schmid <https://bit.ly/2Jrezbd>

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**Notes to Editors**

Pianist Alexandra Dariescu dazzles audiences worldwide with her effortless musicality and captivating stage presence. In addition to numerous international ensembles she has forged relationships with key UK orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Hallé Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, performing in venues such as London's Royal Albert Hall, Southbank Centre, as well as in recital at the Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and New York's Carnegie Hall.

She released two contrasting recordings in autumn 2016: her first concerto recording with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra features Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1* and Mikhail Pletnev's concert suite of arrangements from *The Nutcracker* (Signum Records). The second recording

of *Mesmerism* for piano and orchestra by British Composer Award winner Emily Howard, with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra is on the NMC Records label. In 2015, Alexandra released her second volume of complete preludes by Shostakovich and Szymanowski as part of her trilogy of preludes project for Champs Hill Records.

Alexandra receives advice from Sir András Schiff and she was mentored by Imogen Cooper through the Royal Philharmonic Society/YCAT Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme, whilst a former artist of the Young Classical Artists Trust. In 2013, Alexandra received the UK's Women of the Future Award in the Arts and Culture category and, in 2015, became the youngest musician to receive the Custodian of the Romanian Crown Medal. She has also been appointed patron of Music in Lyddington and Honorary Associate Artist of the Royal Northern College of Music in 2016.