

Dmitry Smirnov

 VIOLIN

Winner of the 2nd Prize at the ARD International Music Competition, Dmitry Smirnov has built a reputation as one of the most compelling violinists to have emerged in recent years, praised by Sonia Simmenauer for ‘an exuberant artistic personality and a wonderful sound, so flexible and sensitive.’

Highlights of the 2025/26 season included his debut with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Stuttgart Philharmonic and the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, as well as his role as concertmaster on the Cappella Gabetta's European tour. In March 2026, he gave the world premiere in Moscow of the long-lost Violin Concerto by Russian composer Gavriil Popov, a work he himself reconstructed after months of archival research and transcription. In summer and autumn 2026, he served as concertmaster on tour with Il Giardino Armonico and, alongside soprano Julia Lezhneva, led a multi-city tour of the Kammerorchester Basel that took him to Stresa, Merano, Ascona and the Frauenkirche Dresden, followed by appearances at the Brugg Festival, the Festival Lucens Classique and the Festival Kartause Ittingen. Upcoming engagements include his debut with the Orquestra Clássica de Espinho in Portugal and with the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg under Giovanni Antonini.

As a soloist, Dmitry has performed with orchestras including the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Il Giardino Armonico, the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Stuttgart Philharmonic, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, the State Philharmonic Orchestras of Moscow and St. Petersburg (Mariinsky Theatre), the Novaya Rossiya State Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Virtuosi, the Kammerorchester Basel, the Sinfonieorchester Basel, the Sinfonieorchester St. Gallen, the Festival Strings Lucerne, the Camerata Bern, the Munich Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, the Argovia Philharmonic, the Orchestra di Padova e del Veneto and the Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, working with conductors such as Giovanni Antonini, Heinz Holliger, Philippe Herreweghe, Vladimir Spivakov, Gilbert Varga, Stanislav Kochanovsky, Philipp Chizhevsky, Delyana Lazarova and Aurel Dawidiuk.

His solo and chamber music engagements have taken him to venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Brucknerhaus Linz, the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow and Nikkei Hall in Tokyo, as well as festivals including the Salzburg Festival, the Lucerne Festival, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, LuganoMusica, the Heidelberger Frühling, the Rheingau Music Festival, the Davos Festival, the Grafenegg Festival, the Stresa Festival, the Solsberg Festival, the Festival delle Muse Salentine, the Inverno Musicale in Brazil, the Brugg Festival, the Festival Lucens Classique and the Festival Kartause Ittingen.

Dmitry has won prizes at numerous international competitions, including first prizes at the Moscow Oistrakh Competition (2006), the Tibor Varga Competition (2015) and the Concours d'Interprétation Musicale de Lausanne (2017), second prizes at the International Yehudi Menuhin Competition (2008) and the ARD International Music Competition (2021), and a place in the semi-finals of the Queen Elisabeth Competition (2024). In 2018, he won three prizes at the Concours international Long-Thibaud-Crespin, including the Critics' Prize for the best interpretation of a contemporary work. In 2025, he served as a jury member for the Piccolo Violino Magico competition.

A recurring theme in Dmitry's work is the connection between performance and research: works are unearthed, reconstructed or reframed around a concept of his own devising. His debut album (First Hand Records, August 2021) brings together solo works by Bach and Bartók alongside a sonata by Swiss violinist Hansheinz Schneeberger, which Dmitry discovered while going through the composer's personal archive and recorded as a world premiere. This was followed by ‘L'Invitation au Voyage,’ devoted to Lalo's violin concertos and his own arrangements of songs by Mussorgsky, recorded with the Kammerorchester Basel under Heinz Holliger (Prospero Classical, June 2023). In 2025 came his recording of Haydn's Violin Concerto as part of the Haydn2032 series, again with the Kammerorchester Basel under Giovanni Antonini (Alpha Classics/Outhere Music). In September

2026, he released 'Stranger Sainton' on Fuga Libera, built around a Guarneri del Gesù violin once owned by violinist Prosper Sainton, featuring works by Paganini, Berlioz, Richard Strauss and Rossini, once more with the Kammerorchester Basel, this time under Victor Jacob. 'With this release, Dmitry Smirnov proves that he ranks among the most distinctive violinists of his generation,' wrote the Online Merker. Due on 23 October 2026 from FHR Records is the complete recording of Eugène Ysaÿe's six solo sonatas, in which each sonata is paired with a work by its respective dedicatee, including Szigeti, Thibaud, Enescu and Kreisler, while a Paganini album with lutenist Luca Pianca and a recording of Vivaldi's double concertos with Ilya Gringolts are both in preparation.

A sought-after chamber musician, Dmitry performs regularly alongside Sol Gabetta, Ilya Gringolts and Aylen Pritchin, and also serves as concertmaster and soloist for Giovanni Antonini's 'Haydn Project 2032.' In recital, he is regularly joined by pianist Sergei Redkin and by lutenist and Harnoncourt student Luca Pianca.

Born in St. Petersburg into a family of musicians, Dmitry began violin lessons at the age of four before continuing his training at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory. He went on to study at the Haute École de Musique in Lausanne with Pavel Vernikov, and later at the Musik-Akademie Basel with Rainer Schmidt. In the context of period-instrument performance, Dmitry also plays viola, cello and harpsichord.

His main instruments are a 2018 violin by Philipp Bonhoeffer and a Vuillaume from the Maggini Foundation.