

ERKEL FERENC

Conservatory

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Dr. Kálmán Dráfi DLA

Piano



PLACE OF BIRTH

BUDAPEST

DATE OF BIRTH

07. 10.1955.

BIOGRAPHY - DISCOGRAPHY

Kálmán Dráfi is a pianist, university associate professor (DLA), and Meritorious Artist.

Childhood

He was born to Dr. Kálmán Dráfi Sr. and Valéria Miklós.

Studies

- From 1965 to 1969, he studied at the Béla Bartók Secondary School of Music and Grammar School.
- From 1969 to 1974, he continued his education at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music.
- His teachers included Mihály Bächer, Pál Kadosa, Ferenc Rados, György Kurtág, András Mihály, and Melinda Kistétényi.
- In 2002, he earned the DLA (Doctor of Liberal Arts) degree. The title of his dissertation was: A Study on the Musical and Technical Problems in the Piano Works of Franz Liszt.
- He studied for several years with Annie Fischer as well.

Masterclasses

- 1973 – Masterclass by Alfred Brendel (Cheltenham, England)
- 1974–1976 – Aspirant studies at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow under Bella Davidovich

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Career

- He graduated in 1975 and spent two years in Moscow. Upon returning,
- he has been a faculty member at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music since 1977.

Masterclasses held

- In 1986, he was head instructor at the György Cziffra Piano Academy in Senlis, France.
- Between 1998 and 2000, he served as guest professor at Kobe College in Japan, where he initiated the doctoral school.

He regularly teaches masterclasses at:

- Tokyo Gedai Academy
- Toho University
- Osaka Ondai University
- Vienna branch of Toho University

Major Performances

He has performed with numerous Hungarian symphony orchestras, including *The Hungarian State Concert Orchestra*, under the batons of

- János Ferencsik,
- András Korodi,
- Ken-Ichiro Kobayashi,
- Ervin Lukács,
- Ádám Medveczky,
- and János Kovács.

He appeared with the *Leningrad Philharmonic* under the direction of Mariss Jansons.

He also performed with the *Boston Philharmonic* conducted by Seiji Ozawa.

He achieved great success throughout Europe with his chamber music partners have included:

- Miklós Perényi,
- Dénes Kovács,
- András Kiss,



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- and Géza Kapás.

Recordings

- He began his collaboration with the Carrere label in Paris in 1985. Under their label, he released:
 - - A Liszt piano album
 - - A Chopin album
 - - A Bartók album
- He has released several chamber music recordings with Naxos and Hungaroton.
- He also recorded one of the volumes of the Unknown Liszt series.

Conducting:

- In Athens, he conducted Brahms' Hungarian Dances with the orchestra of the Hungarian State Opera.
- He recorded a duo CD in Vienna with double bassist Aladár Pege, released by the Tomastic label.

Awards and Honors

- Liszt–Bartók International Piano Competition, Budapest – Special Prize (1971)
- Liszt–Bartók International Piano Competition, Budapest – Special Prize for Best Bartók Interpretation (1976)
- Ferenc Liszt Prize (2012)
- Meritorious Artist (2023)



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