

Paraty and **Harmonia Mundi** present:

**Ivan Ilić plays
Morton Feldman**

For Bunita Marcus (1985)

Release date: **16 October 2015**



The Serbian-American pianist records Morton Feldman's magnum opus for solo piano

Ivan Ilić's new recording of *For Bunita Marcus* (1985) is the culmination of 3 years of research into **Morton Feldman's** life and work.

"After performing *Palais de Mari* (1986) – a 25-minute Feldman "miniature" – in Europe, Asia and South America, I wanted to delve deeper. I studied everything I could get my hands on: I read Feldman's correspondence, examined his manuscripts, and wrote about the experience. It was like an independent graduate degree. I wanted to go even further, so I memorized *For Bunita Marcus*, a 70-minute work. It felt like the logical next step. It's opened up new doors: Feldman's work became my gateway to musical spirituality."

Ivan Ilić's luminous sound and elegant, supple phrasing allow *For Bunita Marcus* to unfold naturally. He leads a new generation of Feldman champions who will carry the music into the 21st century and beyond.

Paraty 135.305

Distributed worldwide by **Harmonia Mundi**

Duration: 68'02" (22 tracks)

Recorded at Salle Cortot, Paris – Sept, Nov 2014

Balance engineer: Judith Carpentier-Dupont

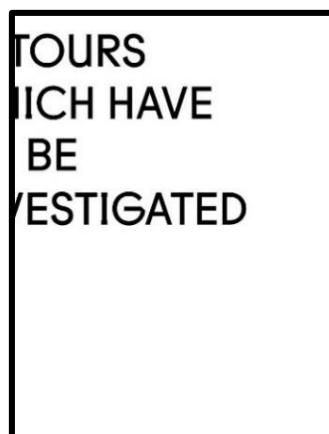
Texts by Ivan Ilić (EN, FR)

Ivan Ilić plays Morton Feldman is the final publication in Ilić's **Morton Feldman Trilogy** which includes **The Transcendentalist** (Heresy/2014) and the Art Book/CD/DVD **Detours Which Have To Be Investigated** (HEAD/2014).



"After the final note you feel: enlightened"

BR Klassik (DE)



"A noble tribute"

La Tribune de Genève (CH)

"Morton Feldman has so much to say with such economical means.
It's as if he lit little sparks in the void."
– Paul Méfano

The most admired works by American composer **Morton Feldman** (1926 – 1987) are from his “late style”, a succession of gently abstract pieces in one movement. Often lasting over an hour, they are intended to be barely audible. *For Bunita Marcus* is typical of this style.

Having worked in his family's textile business well into his 40's, Feldman became a professor at the University of Buffalo in 1973. **Bunita Marcus** was his PhD student from 1975 to 1981. In 1983 Feldman said, “I'm very enthusiastic about this girl. I'm never going to have [another] student like her as long as I live. Never.” Feldman “learned a lot” from her compositions. They were “gorgeous” and “elegant”.

Bunita Marcus was also Feldman's intimate companion, on and off, from the time they met. Marcus refused Feldman's marriage proposal, but they remained close until his death in 1987.

The list of women in Feldman's life is a long one. But Marcus, who commissioned and premiered his last piano piece, *Palais de Mari* (1986), and to whom this CD's composition is dedicated, will always be inextricably linked to Feldman's legacy.

Following studies in mathematics and music at the University of California Berkeley, Serbian-American pianist **Ivan Ilić** (b 1978) moved to Paris in 2001. During his graduate studies at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris and the École Normale de Musique, he began to pursue a career as a soloist. He released two widely acclaimed CDs with **Paraty** featuring **Claude Debussy** (2008) and **Leopold Godowsky** (2012) before turning his attention to **Morton Feldman**.

Since 2010 Ivan Ilić's approach has broadened in scope. He is associated with several prominent French visual artists and has played in two short films: *Les Mains* (2011) and *Le Berger* (2011). This led to videos of Godowsky's *Chopin Studies* for the left hand, which garnered over 500,000 views on YouTube. He began writing about music, initially for the **Washington Times** and more recently for the websites of **Gramophone** and **Music & Literature**. He also co-produced several 5-hour radio series for Swiss Radio **RTS Espace 2**. At the moment he is exploring video as a medium for sharing the fruits of his musical research.

See a sample video here: <http://j.mp/feldman-trailer>

Tour Dates: Autumn 2015

24 Sept: Bandon (IR) – 26 Sept: Poitiers (FR) – 08 Oct: Portlaoise (IR)
09 Oct: Rhosygilwen (UK) – 13 Oct: Cardiff (UK) – 15 Oct: Bristol (UK)
16/17 Oct: Stornoway (UK) – 20 Oct: Llanelli (UK), 22 Oct: Glasgow (UK)
24 Oct: Inverurie (UK) – 25 Oct: Ballater (UK) – 27 Oct: Lausanne (CH)
28 Oct: Listowel (IR) – 30 Oct: Holyhead (UK) – 01 Nov: Aberdovey (UK)
04 Nov: Keele (UK) – 05 Nov: London – 11 Nov: Paris – 14 Nov: Bordeaux (FR)