

Dobromir Tsenov Biography

Dobromir Tsenov is a Bulgarian-British pianist, currently in his third and final year as a Ph.D. student at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) in Manchester. His research is focused on exploring and recording Lubomir Pipkov's complete piano works under the supervision of Dr Adam Swayne and Dr Annika Forkert. The project is generously supported by a fully funded RNCM Studentship as well as the Bulgarian National Culture Fund.

In 2024–26 Tsenov performed Pipkov's music across the UK, giving many first performances of this repertoire outside Bulgaria. Recent international conference appearances in 2025 include the Doctors in Performance Festival Conference at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, and the Performance Studies Network at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. In January 2026, he presented at the British Forum for Ethnomusicology and Royal Music Association Research Students' Conference in Birmingham, UK. He was also invited to perform a lecture-recital at the Annual Conference at Queen's University Belfast in September 2026. In May 2025, he organised the first Postgraduate Research Showcase event as part of the annual RNCM Postgraduate Research Conference, promoting artistic performance research among doctoral students.

Tsenov earned Distinctions in both his M.Mus. (RNCM) and B.Mus. (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire), studying piano performance with Dina Parakhina, Julian Jacobson and Daniel Browell. During his studies, he developed a strong interest in early- and mid-twentieth-century Bulgarian repertoire, particularly the music of Pancho Vladigerov and his son Alexander. A prize-winner of numerous national and international competitions in Bulgaria and abroad, he has also taken part in masterclasses with musicians including Nelly Akopian-Tamarina, Ludmil Angelov, Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, Peter Donohoe, Matthew Schellhorn and Rostislav Yovchev.

His self-published debut album, *Bulgarian Classics* (2019), received high acclaim in Bulgaria, where it was broadcast several times on Bulgarian National Radio, as well as in the United Kingdom, receiving a five-star review and being described as “*first class in every respect*” by Robert Matthew-Walker, editor of *Musical Opinion*. He was also awarded the Marjorie Hazlehurst Project Award by the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for graduating with the highest result.

His latest solo albums of Pipkov's works (on Toccata Classics) have received high praise from publications including Gramophone, *Fanfare*, *American Record Guide*, *MusicWeb International*, *Classics Today*, and *Ritmo*. The recordings have also been regularly broadcast on Scala Radio (UK) and Bulgarian National Radio.

Tsenov is currently a Deputy Piano Tutor at the Junior RNCM and has delivered lectures on twentieth-century music to RNCM undergraduate and postgraduate students.