

Steinway Artist, Susan Merdinger has been internationally acclaimed in prestigious newspapers and journals for her stunning performances. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung described her recital as a “daring, enormously joyous presentation which captured and transfixed the audience”. Fanfare Magazine declared that her “Carnival” CD was “exquisitely detailed and full of life”. Jerry Dubins wrote of her Brahms Two Rhapsodies recording “These are the most potent and exciting performances of Brahms’s Rhapsodies I’ve personally ever encountered. If she never plays another note for the rest of her life— perish the thought— Susan’s playing of these two works alone would make her, in my book, one of the great pianists of all time”.

Presented by Artists International in her sold-out solo recital debut at Carnegie Recital Hall at the age of twenty-four, Merdinger has continued to grace the stages of some of the world’s best concert halls including Merkin Concert Hall, Diligentia Hall in the Hague, Henry Wood Concert Hall in Scotland’s National Orchestra Center, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Ravinia’s Bennett Gordon Hall, Chicago’s Harris Theater for Music And Dance, Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center, Fullerton Hall at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Logan Center for the Performing Arts and the Chicago Symphony Center. Merdinger was presented in her International Debut Recital Tour under the sponsorship of the International Concert Administration with concerts in four European countries. Merdinger’s live performances and recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, WFMT, WDAV, WMNR, CKWR (Canada), BRT-3 (Belgian National Radio), and BBC Television (United Kingdom). She been a featured guest artist on WQXR’s *The Listening Room* with Robert Sherman, WFMT’s *Impromptu* program with George Preston, *Live from WFMT* with Kerry Frumkin, the *Pianoforte Salon Series* with David Schwann, as well as the Cable TV show *Bravura*. Merdinger has been a frequent performer for the *Chicago Latino Music Festival*, with her most recent concert with the Fulcrum Point New Music Ensemble extolled by reviewer Debra Davy in *Splash Magazine*. Her summer music festival performances include performances at the Chautauqua, Norfolk, Summit, Quimera (Mexico), Lake Tahoe, Fine Arts Music Society and Fontainebleau (France) Music Festivals.

Merdinger enjoys an active career as a concerto soloist, recitalist, duo pianist, chamber musician and recording artist. Merdinger made her Chicago Solo Orchestral Debut at Harris Theater with The Chicago Philharmonic directed by Sony Classical Artist Mattia Rondelli and her International Orchestral Debut at the Sala Felipe Villanueva with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico directed by Gabriela Diaz Alatrister. She has toured Europe, Mexico and the USA and has collaborated with members of the New York Philharmonic, the New Jersey Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Jupiter Symphony, the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. A noted interpreter of the music of Beethoven, Merdinger has recorded for *Live from WFMT* Beethoven’s Complete Sonatas for Piano and Violin and Piano and Cello with cellist Steven Honigberg and international prize-winning violinists Ilya Kaler, Michaela Paetsch and David Yonan. Merdinger has been a Visiting Artist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series from 2012-2018, garnering standing ovations for her performances with the Tononi Ensemble. Locally, she also enjoys frequent collaboration with renowned cellist Nazar Dzhuryn, now-retired CSO Principal Violist, Charles Pikler, and cellist Lawrence Block members of the Highland Park Strings.

In the 2017–2019 seasons, Merdinger was a featured piano soloist in Cesar Franck’s Symphonic Variations and performed Beethoven’s Triple Concerto with co-soloists Michaela Paetsch and Steven Honigberg with the North Shore Chamber Orchestra, in addition to performing in more than 30 solo recital and chamber music concerts. In October 2018, Merdinger returned for her second engagement with the Highland Park Strings performing Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1. Her solo recital appearances included a California tour, as well as many performances throughout the Midwest. In June 2019, she conducts Sheridan Solisti Chamber Orchestra and the Memorial Brass Ensemble program for the 3rd Annual

Janet Thau Showcase Concert in Evanston's Nichol's Hall. In July, she returns to Summit Music Festival for Faculty Chamber Music Concerts there.

A passionate advocate of contemporary music, Merdinger has championed works by composers such as Morton Gould, Augusta Read Thomas, Margarita Zelenai, James Stone, Elbio Barilari, Sandro Fazzolari, Aaron Copland, Leroy Anderson, Aaron Jay Kernis, Fernando Vazquez and Gabriela Lena Frank. Distinguished composers Ilya Levinson, Jeremy Beck and Aaron Alter have each dedicated piano works to Ms. Merdinger for which she performed the world and local premieres.

Merdinger has collaborated with many distinguished conductors including Glen Cortese, Gabriela Diaz Alatríste, James Rawie, Mattia Rondelli, Francesco Milioto, Ron Arden, Robert Hasty, Sandra Dackow, Ari Rudiakov, Marvin von Deck, Francis Akos, Michael Holian, Richard Thurston, Anatol Lysenka, Barry Hoffman, and Jerome La Sala, - with numerous orchestras including the State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, Chicago Philharmonic, Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Highland Park Strings, Rockland Symphony, Adelphi Chamber Orchestra, Lake Forest Civic Orchestra, Yonkers Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Orchestra of New Jersey, the Westchester Chamber Orchestra, the Northwest Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the North Shore Chamber Orchestra,, the Lake County Symphony Orchestra, and the Yale Concert Band.

Among her many honors, Merdinger is a First Prize Winner of the 2012 (Professional Solo) and 2017 (Professional Piano Duo) Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition, and the 2013 International Music Competition of France, and is a Winner of the Dewar's Young Artists Award in Music (presented by the late Marvin Hamlisch), the Artists International Young Musicians Competition, the Artists International Distinguished Alumni Winners Prize, the IBLA Grand Prize Competition "Special Liszt Award", and the Masterplayers International Music Competition. She is also a laureate of the prestigious Harveys Leeds International Piano Competition, Montreal International Concours de Musique, William Kappell International Piano Competition and Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition. Ms. Merdinger is the recipient of a Gold Medal in the Global Music Awards for her CD recordings which have received glowing reviews in publications such as American Record Guide, Classical Sentinel, Audiophile Audition, Fanfare Magazine, The Whole Note, The Hyde Park Herald, Classical Candor, and the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta. Merdinger is also a Steinway-Spirio Recording Artist, having released several recordings of Beethoven, Chopin, Copland and Mendelssohn for the Steinway-Spirio Catalog in April 2017.

Merdinger completed her formal education at Yale University, the Yale School of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, the Westchester Conservatory of Music, the Ecole Normale de Musique in Fontainebleau, France, and the Chautauqua and Norfolk Music Festivals where she held the coveted Patricia Benkman Marsh Scholarship and the Ellen Battel Stoeckel Fellowship. Merdinger inherited the great American and European traditions from her teachers who included Constance Keene, Claude Frank, Ward Davenny, Ozan Marsh, Seymour Lipkin, Elizabeth Parisot, and Gaby Casadesus. Susan studied conducting under Otto Werner Mueller and Robert Kapilow and has also had coaching and/or masterclasses with Peter Serkin, Phillipe Entremont, Byron Janis, Walter Hautzig, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Emile Naumoff, Claude Hellfer, Tadeusz Kerner, and Mary Sauer. A highly regarded pedagogue and adjudicator, Ms. Merdinger's students have consistently won top prizes in local and national competitions and admittance to top music schools and universities. Susan Merdinger is an Artist Faculty of the Summit Music Festival in New York, and Artistic Director and Founder of Sheridan Music Studio Presents, a not-for profit record label and management organization representing Sheridan Solisti, Pianissimo!, and the Five Greenes, among others. Ms. Merdinger writes her own blog, *Merdinger's Musings*, available on her website, www.susanmerdingerpianist.com,

and she is a published Classical Music Reviewer for the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta, and the Chicago Music Examiner.

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