

# SUSAN MERDINGER

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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## **SUSAN MERDINGER, Pianist**

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### **ARTISTIC SUMMARY**

Concert Pianist and Teacher with an extensive record of success in performing, teaching, mentoring, writing and recording. Passionate, inspirational, internationally acclaimed musician committed to a lifelong pursuit of excellence in the performing arts.

### **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC, New York, NY

Doctor of Musical Arts Candidate, 1986-1988

- Merit Scholarship Award Winner

YALE UNIVERSITY, New Haven, CT

*Yale School of Music*

Master of Music in Piano Performance, 1985

YALE UNIVERSITY, New Haven CT

*Yale College*

Early Concentration in Music Program, Pre-Med

Bachelor of Arts in Music, 1983, Graduated in three years.

WESTCHESTER CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, White Plains, NY

Artist Diploma in Piano and Flute, 1980

### **FESTIVALS/FELLOWSHIPS**

1985 Yale-Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Connecticut, Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship

1983-1985 Chautauqua Music Festival, New York, Patricia Benkman Marsh Scholarship

1982 Fontainebleau School of Music, Fontainebleau, France, Merit Scholarship

1981 Hartt School of Music Summer Piano Program, Scholarship Student of Walter Hautzig

### **PRINCIPAL TEACHERS**

Piano – Constance Keene, Seymour Lipkin, Ward Davenny, Elisabeth Parisot, Claude Frank, Ozan Marsh, Gaby Casadesus, Michael Pollon

Master Classes/Coaching/Private Study – Byron Janis, Eugene List, Walter Hautzig, Abram Chasins, Boris Berman, Donald Currier, Peter Serkin, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Phillippe Entremont, Tadeusz Kerner.

Composition – Martin Bresnick, Frederic Rzewski

Conducting – Robert Kapilow, Otto Werner Mueller

Flute – Harold Jones, Thomas Nyfenger

## AWARDS

- **2019:** The American Prize in Chamber Music- 2nd Prize for Sheridan Solisti
- **2014-2016:** Global Music Awards- French Fantasy CD(Gold Medal), Carnival, Four Centuries, and Pianissimo!-The Chicago Debut Concert CD's (Silver Medals); Soirée CD (Bronze)
- **2017, 2012:** Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition
  - First Prize: Professional Division- Solo 2012
  - First Prize: Professional Division- Duo Piano 2017
- **2013:** First Prize: International Music Competition of France
- **2011:** Special Liszt Award: IBLA Grand Prize Festival and Competition
- **2009:** 29<sup>th</sup> Masterplayers International Music Competition — Top Honors Prizes, Solo Piano / Duo Piano –
- **1990:** Dewar's Young Artist Recognition Award in Music
- **1989:** Artists International Young Musicians Distinguished Alumni Winners Series – New York Recital
- **1986:** Artists International Young Musicians Competition, Piano – New York Recital Debut Award Winner
- **1985:** Prize Winner – Performers of Connecticut Young Musicians Competition
- **1985:** First Prize: Westchester Conservatory of Music Chamber Music Competition, Merdinger-Greene Duo Pianists
- **1979:** First Prize: New York State Music Teachers Association Piano Competition (State-wide Competition)
- Semifinalist or Finalist – New York Chopin Competition, Young Keyboard Artists Association Competition, Murray Dranoff Two Piano International Competition, American Music Scholarship Association Competition, Simone Belsky Young Artist Competition.
- Laureate of major international piano competitions including: William Kappell Competition (1985), Harveys-Leeds Competition (1987), Montreal Concours de Musique (1992)

## MAJOR PERFORMANCES

### SOLO RECITALS

- Carnegie Recital Hall Debut – Presented by Artists International April 26, 1987
- Merkin Concert Hall Solo Recital – Presented by Artists International March 19, 1990
- Solo performances in Governor of New York's Gracie Mansion, and for the Governor of Connecticut.
- European Solo Debut Recital Tour – Presented by International Concert Administration 1986
  - Scottish National Orchestra Center, Scotland
  - Dilgentia Hall, the Hague
  - America House- Frankfurt, Germany
  - Saarbrucken Cultural Center, Germany
  - BRT-3 Belgian Radio

- Carnegie - Weill Recital Hall- Winners Concerts — Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition 2012 and 2017, and Alexander and Buono International String Competition, 2015.
- Latino Music Festival: Solo Recital, Chicago, Illinois October 2013; Chamber Music- October 2017.
- California Solo Recital Tour: November 2018
- Solo Recital Programs (2008-2018)

## CHAMBER MUSIC

### **2011-2018 Concert Performance Highlights:**

- **Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series: “Tononi Ensemble”**
  - Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago, March 25, 2011 Program: Brahms- Horn Trio; Ilya Levinson- Shtetl Scenes for French Horn, Violin Double Bass and Piano; Elbio Barilari Darwin’s Dream Trio; Armando Susmano- Peace Trio for Violin, French Horn and Piano.
  - Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago, May 19, 2013: Program: All Schubert- Selected Songs; Shepherd on the Rock; Notturmo for Piano Trio; and the “Trout” Quintet.
  - Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago, March 22, 2015: Program: Field- Piano Quintet; Glinka- Grande Sextet; Dvorak- Piano Quintet No.2.
  - Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago, April 3, 2016: Eric Ewazen- Trio for Violin, Trumpet and Piano; Bruch- Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano; Gaubert- Médailles Antiques for Flute, Violin and Piano.
  - Chicago Symphony Center Buntrock Hall, October 30, 2013: Mozart Piano Quartet No.1 in g minor
  - Logan Center for the Performing Arts- University of Chicago-October 29, 2017 Program: Beethoven Piano and Woodwind Quintet, Op. 16; Bloch Concertino for Flute, Viola and Piano; Loeffler Two Rhapsodies for Viola, Oboe and Piano; Poulenc Sextet for Piano and Woodwinds.
- **Carnegie Recital Hall:**
  - May 2012: American Protege Competition Winners Concert. Collaborator with two First Prize Winners: Sarah Greene, violist and Scott Greene, clarinetist.
  - September 2015: Alexander Buono International String Competition Winners Concert, with David Yonan, violinist, First Prize Winner. Performed Gershwin-Frolov Fantasy on Porgy and Bess
  - May 2017: Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition Winners Concert- Professional Piano Duo Division, Merdinger-Greene Piano Duo with Steven Greene, First Prize Winners.

- **Live from WFMT:** Kerry Frumkin, Host.
  - January 4, 2016- Piano and Strings- Field, Dvorak, and Glinka;
  - Complete Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin and Piano and Cello 2016-2019. With Violinists, Michaela Paetsch, Ilya Kaler, David Yonan, and Cellist, Steven Honigberg.
- **Summit Music Festival:** Solo and Chamber Music Faculty Recitals July/August 2011-2019. Works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Schumann, Debussy, Schubert, Beethoven, Zelenka, Weber. Collaborative artists included: Steven Elisha, Larisa Elisha, Olivier Fluchaire, Yoram Youngerman, Junah Chung, Elena Peres, Eugene Briskin, Bongshin Ko, Margarita Zelenka, Irina Nuzova, Anna Gorfinkel, Vincent Lioni, Beryl Diamond Chacon, Benjamin Capps, David Whiteside, Emanuel Gruber.
- **Fine Arts Music Society Festival, Brown County, IN:** Founding Faculty Member and Performer 2012-2013.
- **Pianoforte Salon Series: Sherwood Conservatory, Chicago, IL.** Duo Piano Concert with Irina Feoktistova, Simulcast on WFMT 98.7, September 2, 2012
- **University of Illinois- Chicago:** Noontime Series, Solo and Duo Piano Concert with Irina Feoktistova. September 19, 2011.
- **Northbrook Public Library:** Solo and Duo Recital with Charlie Pikler, viola, October 30, 2011; Fine Arts Music Society Festival Players, September 9, 2012; “Dynamic Duos” Concert with David Yonan and Steven Greene, December 16, 2012; April 2012 and 2013 with Elaris Duo; October 18, 2015; January 3, 2016; April 2016; June 2016 (David Yonan); October 2016 (Steven Honigberg); January 2016 (Ilya Kaler); March (Pianissimo!), April 2017 (The Five Greens); May 2017 (Solo); December 2017 (Sheridan Solisti Trio) ; January 2018 (Michaela Paetsch), March 2018 (Chamber), April 2018 (Solo), May 2018 (Sheridan Solisti Trio); November 2018 (Solo); March 2019 (Duo Piano).
- **Northbrook Public Library Two Piano Festival:** Merdinger-Feoktistova Piano Duo, March 4, 2012; Merdinger-Greene Piano Duo, March 3, 2013; Merdinger-Feoktistova Piano Duo March 10, 2013; Pianissimo!: March 13, 2016, and March 26, 2017; Merdinger-Greene Duo, March 2, 2019
- **Waukegan Chamber Music Society, March 19, 2017:** Susan Merdinger and Friends (Yuriy Geyer, violin, Charlie Pikler, viola, Nazar Dzhuryn, cello) perform Piano Quartets by Beethoven and Brahms.
- **STIM.U.LI Concert Series:** New Music School of Chicago. All Brahms Concert: Viola Sonatas No. 1 and 2, and Cello Sonata Op. 38, Charlie Pikler, Viola, Jocelyn Butler, Cello. December 9, 2011.
- **Concert tours with the Elaris Duo:** Steven Elisha, Cello, Larisa Elisha, Violin. Concerts in Midwest, April 2012 and April 2013. University of Wisconsin, Pianoforte Salon, Northbrook Public Library, University of Illinois, Steinway Piano Gallery-Chicago, et al.

- **Mostly Music of Chicago Benefit Concert:** Duo Concert with Charlie Pikler, Principal Violist, Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Arts Club of Chicago, June 15, 2012.
- **Concordia University Chicago:** 12.2017 and 01.2018: Presented in concerts with Sheridan Solisti Piano Trio and Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin with Michael Paestch.

### SOLO CONCERTOS - ORCHESTRAL PIANO

#### **Collaborations with Conductors/Orchestras:**

Francis Akos	Joseph Glymph	James Rawie
Gabriela Diaz Alatraste	Robert Hasty	Mattia Rondelli
Ron Arden	Barry Hoffman	Ari Rudiakov
Gabriel Banat	Michael Holian	Jerome Sala
Glen Cortese	Robert Kapilow	Philip Simmons
Sandra Dackow	Anatol Lysenka	Richard Thurston
Marvin von Deck	Francesco Milioto	Mina Zikri
Thomas Duffy	Lawrence Rapchak	

- **2020:** Northbrook Symphony Orchestra- Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5, Mina Zikri
- **2019:** North Shore Chamber Orchestra- Beethoven Piano Concerto No.2 Anatol Lysenka
- **2019:** Northbrook Symphony Orchestra- Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2, Lawrence Rapchak
- **2018:** Highland Park Strings- Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, Robert Hasty
- **2018:** North Shore Chamber Orchestra (2X)
  - Cesar Franck- Symphonic Variations (March) and Beethoven- Triple Concerto (June) with Steven Honigberg, cello and Michaela Paetsch, violin, Anatol Lysenka.
- **2017:** Tahoe Symphony Orchestra (4X) (Mozart No. 21, K. 467), James Rawie
- **2017:** Lake County Symphony Orchestra - (Piano Masters Concert: Bach-Vivaldi- Four Piano Concerto with Pianissimo!; Poulenc- Two Piano Concerto with Irina Feoktistova plus my two prodigy students, Annika Huprikar and Xiaoping Wang performed concertos by Mozart and Saint-Saëns), Ron Arden.
- **2016:** Orquesta Sinfonica Del Estado de Mexico (2X) (Tchaikovsky No.1) Gabriela Diaz Alatraste
- **2016:** North Shore Chamber Orchestra (Mozart No. 25, K. 503), Anatol Lysenka
- **2014:** North Shore Chamber Orchestra (Liszt No.1; 2016), Anatol Lysenka.
- **2014:** Highland Park Strings (Schumann), Francesco Milioto
- **2013:** The Chicago Philharmonic (Gerswhin, Gottschalk), Mattia Rondelli
- **2013:** Northwest Chicago Symphony Orchestra (Gershwin), Michael Holian
- **2012:** FullScore Chamber Orchestra (2X) (Gershwin), Ron Arden
- **2012:** North Suburban Symphony Orchestra (2X) (Gershwin)
- **2011:** Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, Phil Simmons
- **2010:** Classical Symphony Orchestra (Bartok), Joseph Glymph
- **2008:** Highland Park Strings (Bloch), Francis Akos
- **1998-99:** Rockland Symphony Orchestra (2X) (Liszt No.1, Beethoven No.5) Marvin von Deck

- **1999:** Ridgewood Symphony (Tchaikovsky No.1), Sandra Dackow
- **1997-2001:** Adelphi Chamber Orchestra (5X) (Beethoven Nos. 1, 2 and 3; Mozart No. 21 K. 467; Mozart Two-Piano K. 365), Glenn Cortese, Ari Rudiakov.
- **1992:** Westchester Chamber Orchestra (Gottschalk), Barry Hoffman.
- **1992-93:** Metropolitan Orchestra of New Jersey (2X) (Beethoven No.1 and 3), Glenn Cortese
- **1994:** Yonkers Philharmonic Symphony (Schumann), Jerome Sala
- **1982:** Yale Concert Band (Gottschalk), Richard Thurston
- **1981:** Yale Symphony (Respighi, Bloch), Robert Kapilow
- **1979:** Westchester Conservatory (Ravel), Gabriel Banat

### RADIO/TV

- BBC Television of Great Britain
- BRT3 National Radio of Belgium
- WQXR, *The Listening Room*, with Robert Sherman
- WDAV, Classical Public Radio
- CKWR, Canadian Public Radio
- Connecticut Public Radio
- Cable Television Documentary Interview and Performance, *Bravura*
- WFMT, *Impromptu Series* with George Preston, Live solo performance April 26, 2011
- WFMT, *Fiesta! with Elbio Barilari- March 5, 2015*
- WFMT, *Live from WFMT with Kerry Frumkin*,
  - January 2016: Sheridan Solisti, Grande Sextet by Glinka and Piano Quintets by Field and Dvorak. Cyrus Forough and Michele Lekas, violins; Sarah Greene, viola; Mark Lekas, cello; Collins Trier, Double Bass.
  - June 2016: Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin, Nos. 1, 5, and 9, with David Yonan.
  - October 2016: Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Cello, Nos. 1 and 3 and Variations on Judas Maccabbeus, with Steven Honigberg.
  - January 2017: Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin, Nos. 3, 8, and 7, with Ilya Kaler.
  - January 2018: Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin, Nos. 2, 4, 6, and 10, with Michaela Paetsch.
- WFMT, Pianoforte Salon Series- Live Duo Piano Concert with Irina Feoktistova, David Schwann, host. September 2, 2011. Works by Brahms, Bizet-Chasins.

### COLLABORATIVE ARTISTS (1986-present)

- **Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** Charlie Pikler, Violin/Viola; Daniel Gingrich, Horn; Roger Cline, Bass, Daniel Katz, Cello; Fox Fehling, Violin; J. Lawrie Bloom, Clarinet; Richard Graef, Flute; Tage Larsen, Trumpet; Gregory Smith, Clarinet; Michael Henschel, Oboe; Oto Carillo, French Horn; Emma Gerstein, Flute; Keith Buncke, Bassoon; Greg Smith, clarinet. John Sharp, Cello.

- **Chicago Symphony Chorus Singers:** Laura Boguslavsky, Alison Wahl, Ryan Cox.
- **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra/Orpheus Chamber Orchestra:** Jonathan Spitz, Principal Cello; Eric Weirich, Violinist/Concert Master;
- **Ilya Kaler**, International Prize-winning violinist, Professor of Violin at DePaul University/Cleveland Institute of Music.
- **Michaela Paetsch**, International Prize-winning Violinist
- **David Yonan:** International Concert Violinist
- **National Symphony Orchestra:** Steven Honigberg, Cellist
- **Summit Music Festival:** Artist Faculty- Olivier Fluchaire, Cyrus Forough, Elena Peres, Junah Chung, Yoram Youngerman, Bongshin Ko, Steven Elisha, Larisa Elisha, Eugene Briskin, Irina Nuzova, Anna Gorfinkel, Margarita Zelenaiia.
- **Chicago Philharmonic:** Collins Trier, Double Bass
- **Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra:** Mark Brandfonbrener, Cello; Collins Trier, Double Bass
- **Lake Forest Symphony:** Mark Lekas, Cello; Michele Lekas, Violin
- **NY Philharmonic:** Harry Zaratzian, Violin;
- **NY Metropolitan Opera Orchestra:** Vincent Lioni
- Cyrus Forough, Violin: Carnegie Mellon Professor of Violin
- **ELARIS Duo:** Dr. Steven Elisha, Cello, and Dr. Larisa Elisha, Violin; Georgia Southern University, Concert and Recording Artists.
- **Lincoln Trio members:** Desiree Ruhstrat, Violin and David Cunliffe, Cello
- **Virginia Symphony Orchestra and Highland Park Strings:** Rachel Fisher, Violin
- **Florida Philharmonic:** Steven Sigurdson, cello
- **Elgin Symphony:** Nazar Dzhuryn, Principal Cellist
- **Columbus Symphony Orchestra:** Walter Grabner, Clarinetist
- **Highland Park Strings:** Larry Block, Cellist, and Founder; Yuriy Geyer, violin
- **Pianists:** Steven Greene; Pianissimo!: Irina Feoktistova, Svetlana Belsky, Elena Doubovitskaya; Margarita Zelenaiia; Irina Nuzova; Anna Gourfinkel.
- **Singers:** Emily Birsan, Gianni Coletta, Cantor Lawrence Avery, Cantor Nathaniel Benjamin, Cantor Mandy Beckenstein, Sarah Greene, Stefanie Greene.
- **Contemporary Composers:** *Augusta Read Thomas* (Toft Serenade for Violin and Piano); *Elbio Barilari* (World Premieres of Toccata Gaucha and Saxon Variations); *Ilya Levinson* (World Premieres of Chamber Version of Shtetl Scenes; Fireball for Four Pianos, dedicated to me; Broadway Medley for Four Pianos, dedicated to Pianissimo!; Professional recording of Elegy for Violin and Piano), *Armando Susmano* (Romance, The Four Seasons, Piano Trio for Viola, French Horn and Piano (World Premiere)), *Aaron Jay Kernis* (World Premiere of Geographical Fugue for Chorus); *Morton Gould* (New York Premiere of Pieces of China (1985); Two Pianos (1990)); *Fernando Vazquez* (World Premiere of Ballade in F-sharp minor for Solo Piano); *Victor Pichardo*, *Margarita Zelenaiia* (World Premiere of Scheherezade Fantasy and Vivaldi's Summer from the Four Season, commissioned by Pianissimo!); *Jeremy Beck* (World Premiere of Four Piano Pieces, 2017, dedicated to me); *James Stone* (World Premiere of Riptide for Four Pianos); *Aaron Alter* (World Premieres of Solar Rays for Piano Trio, and Sonata for Solo Piano, dedicated to me).



- **The Five Greens:** Steven Greene, piano; Stefanie Greene, soprano; Sarah Greene, viola; and Scott Greene, clarinet and composer.

## REPRESENTATIVE CONCERT VENUES

- Chicago Symphony Orchestra Center, Buntrock Hall
- Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago,
- Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center
- Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago
- University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
- Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL
- Pianoforte Salon, Chicago, IL
- Arts Club of Chicago, IL
- The Driehaus Museum, Chicago, IL
- Steinway Piano Galleries, CA, IL, NY
- Columbia College-Sherwood Conservatory, IL
- Midwest Young Artists, Highwood, IL
- Northbrook Public Library, IL
- Highland Park High School, IL
- Chicago Public Schools, IL
- Skokie Public Library, IL
- Highland Park Community House, IL
- University of Wisconsin-Parkside, WI
- Ravinia- Bennett Gordon Hall, Highland Park, IL
- Yale University, CT
- Solomon Schecter, West Hartford, CT
- Manhattan School of Music, NY
- SUNY-Purchase, NY
- Kosciusko Foundation, NY
- Westchester Conservatory of Music, NY
- Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY
- SUNY-Rockland Community College, NY
- Five Towns Public Library, NY
- Emelin Theater, Mamaroneck, NY
- Woodmere Public Library, NY
- New Rochelle Public Library, NY
- Tarrytown Music Hall, NY
- Grace Episcopal Church, Nyack, NY
- YMCA of Silver Bay, NY
- Metropolitan JCC of New Jersey, West Orange, NJ
- Basking Ridge/Bernards Township Public Library, NJ
- Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ
- Westfield Presbyterian Church, NJ
- Y-JCC of Bergen County, New Jersey
- Elgin Public Library, IL
- Unitarian Church of Paramus, NJ
- Sala Felipe Villanueva, Toluca, Mexico
- Conservatorio del Estado de Mexico, Toluca, Mexico
- Encinitas Public Library, CA

## **CRITICAL REVIEWS**

- American Record Guide
- Audiophile Audition
- Audio-Video Club of Atlanta
- Chicago Classical Review
- Classical Candor
- Classical Sentinel (Canada)
- The Daily Times: Westchester-Gannett
- Fanfare Magazine
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany
- Frankfurter Neue Presse, Germany
- The Glasgow Herald, Scotland
- Het Vaderland, The Hague
- Hyde Park Herald, Chicago, IL
- Mainly Piano
- Music and Vision, United Kingdom
- The New Haven Register, CT
- Saarbrücken Zeitung, Germany
- Splash Magazine, Chicago, IL
- Whole Note Magazine, Canada

## SELECTED REVIEW QUOTES

"A genuinely honest virtuoso..."

*Audiophile Audition*

"Ethereal and atmospheric performance"

*American Record Guide*

"Excellent Pianist"

Robert Sherman, *The New York Times*

"World-Class Pianist"

*Highland Park News/Sun-Times Media*

"Courageous Debut"

Truly amazing... Great

Insight...Breathhtaking..Refreshing. Cries of bravo and enthusiastic applause were the thanks this musician received for her generously endowed gifts."

*Frankfurter Allegemeine Zeitung, Germany*

"Impressive Young Artist"

A spectacular piano concert...Susan

Merdinger combines great musical sensibility with enormous technical facility...

*Saarbrucken Zeitung, Germany*

"Tender and impassioned"

An exhilarating, whirlwind performance.

*The Glasgow Herald, Scotland*

"Stylish, Elegant Mozart, Exciting Gershwin"

*Frankfurter Neue Presse, Germany*

"Honesty Honored"

In this era of pianists we have pianists galore, but pianists who are real artists at the same time are very rare indeed. Susan Merdinger is one of them, I am sure. Her musicality and her intuition originate directly from her pure heart.

*Jan von Voorthuysen, Het Vaderland, Holland*

"Merdinger has the magic touch"

*Fanfare Magazine, April 2014*

"Merdinger and Greene performed with charm, sensitivity and bravado" .... The

playing sparkled and revealed unusual maturity and a considerable range of pianistic technique.

*The New Haven Register*

"Emotion-filled Pianist"

"Saxon Variations", by Latino Music Festival Co-Director Elbio Barilari of Uruguay; a playful homage to Eric Satie, beautifully performed by Special Guest pianist Susan Merdinger. The work can be described as an experiment in timing, the harmonic language expressed in a series of treatments on a theme. Some of the variations were rhapsodic, some cunning, some deeply stirring- all were technically profound.

*Splash Magazine, October 2017*

"Considerable Virtuosity, Passion and Power, Sparkle and zip!"

Frances Brancalone, *Gannett Westchester/Rockland Newspapers*

"Virtuosic, Refined, Statuesque"

Jean-Yves Duperron

*Classical Music Sentinel, September 2014*

"Radiant, energetic, aesthetically poised"

John J. Puccio

*Classical Candor, January 2014*

"Schumann playing of eloquent expression and exquisite beauty"

*Fanfare Magazine, April 2014*

## DISCOGRAPHY

**In production: The Classical Style II. Works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Scheduled for release in 2019.**

**In Production: American Melting Pot. Works by Morton Gould, Fernando Vazquez, Aaron Alter, Elbio Barilari, Ilya Levinson. Scheduled for release in 2020.**

**Recorded for Steinway Spirio, November 2016, released in April 2017. Works by Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn and Copland.**

**Pianissimo!: “The Chicago Debut Concert”:** Works by Beethoven, Levinson, Zelenka, Saint-Saens, Gershwin, Lutoslawski, Stone. Pianists: Susan Merdinger, Irina Feoktistova, Svetlana Belsky, Elena Doubovitskaya. Recording Engineer: Ed Ingold. Editing Engineers: Ed Ingold, Svetlana Belsky and Scott Greene. Recorded LIVE at the Merit School of Music, September 12, 2015. Steinway Pianos.

**Susan Merdinger and David Yonan: “Four Centuries”.** Works for Piano and Violin by Mozart, Schumann, Bloch and Levinson.  
Recording Engineer: James Auwarter; Graphic Design: Marc Schoenberg; Label: Sheridan Music Studio. Recorded at the Merit School of Music Ann and Howard Gottlieb Hall, July 2015. Steinway D Piano. Release Date: September 15, 2015.

**Susan Merdinger and Steven Greene, Piano Duo: “French Fantasy”.** Works for One Piano, Four Hands by Saint-Saëns, Fauré, and Ravel. Recording Engineer: Ed Ingold. Graphic Design: Marc Schoenberg. Label: Sheridan Music Studio. Steinway B Piano. Release Date: September 18, 2014.

**Susan Merdinger, Pianist: “Soirée”** Works by Schubert, Brahms, Debussy and Liszt.  
Recording Engineers: Tim Martyn, David Schoenberg, Ed Ingold. Graphic Design: Carolyn Loxton. Recorded and edited 2012-2014. Label: Sheridan Music Studio. Release Date: July 30, 2014.

**Susan Merdinger, Pianist: “Carnival!”** Featuring Robert Schumann’s Carnival, Op. 9 and Faschingsschwank aus Wien, Op. 26. Recorded at WFMT Studio and Nichols Concert Hall, Evanston, IL (2011-2012). Recording Engineers: Mary Mazurek, Ed Ingold, Mark Travis. Graphic Design: Leslie Gould. Label: Sheridan Music Studio. Release Date: June 14, 2013

**Susan Merdinger and Steven Greene, Pianists: “The Dynamic Duo”** Works for Two Pianos by Bach, Saint-Saëns and Stravinsky (1985) Recording Engineer: Eugene Kimball. Graphic Design: Susan Merdinger. Release Date: January 23, 2013.

**Susan Merdinger, Pianist: “Retrospection” Works by Bach, Haydn, Chopin, Debussy and Mendelssohn.**

Recorded in 1983-1984 at the Yale School of Music. Remastered by SoundLab in 2013.

Recording and Editing Engineer: Eugene Kimball. Graphic Design: Susan Merdinger Label: Sheridan Music Studio.

Release Date: February 27, 2013.

**“Fine Arts Music Society Festival Players: Live Concert Highlights”:** Works by Beethoven, Khachaturian, Ilya Levinson, Mendelssohn. Recording Engineer: Ed Ingold. Graphic Design: Susan Merdinger. Recorded live on September 9, 2012. Featuring Susan Merdinger, piano; David Yonan, violin; Cory Tiffin, clarinet; Christopher Ferrer, cello. Release Date: December 5, 2012.

**Susan Merdinger, Pianist: “The Classical Style” Works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven (1984-1988)**

Recording Engineer: Eugene Kimball, and Clinton Recording Studios. Mary Mazurek, CD Remastering Engineer. Graphic Design: Leslie Gould. Release Date: April 15, 2012

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

SHERIDAN MUSIC STUDIO OF HIGHLAND PARK, Highland Park, IL      2006 – PRESENT  
PRIVATE MUSIC INSTRUCTION, New York and New Jersey      1985 – 2003

**Artistic Director, Instructor, Coach, Accompanist, Adjudicator**

[www.sheridanmusicstudio.com](http://www.sheridanmusicstudio.com)

- Provide high-caliber curriculum planning, instruction, mentoring, and career guidance to gifted young musicians. Accompany music students at competitions, concerts, college auditions, and recordings.
- Adjudicator for several prestigious local music competitions in Illinois and Indiana: Stickley-Hartman Competition (Indiana), Thaviu-Isaak Scholarship Competition at Northwestern University (Final Round), Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition (Final Round).
- Provide Master Classes at Music Schools and Conservatories: Chicago Guild of Amateur of Pianists; Conservatorio del Estado de Mexico, Toluca, Mexico.

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, DEERFIELD, IL      DEC. 2017- PRESENT  
**Pianist and Accompanist** <http://christumcdeerfield.org/staff>

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, River Forest, IL      2017-2018  
**Adjunct Piano Faculty**

SHERIDAN SOLISTI AND THE FIVE GREENES, Highland Park, IL 2006 – PRESENT  
**Founder / Musical Director** [www.thefivegreenes.com](http://www.thefivegreenes.com)

- Established and manage non-profit organization and concert series dedicated to promoting the work of local professional musicians and composers, and contributing to noteworthy humanitarian causes.
- Established unique multi-generational family chamber music ensemble comprised of two pianists, clarinetist, violinist/violist and soprano. Sponsored on Airbnb Experiences (Chicago), TripAdvisor and Viator.

PIANISSIMO!, Founder and Co-Artistic Director. 2014 - PRESENT  
**Chicago's Premier Virtuoso Piano Ensemble: Merdinger, Feoktistova, Belsky and Doubovitskaya** [www.pianissimoensemble.com](http://www.pianissimoensemble.com)

SUMMIT MUSIC FESTIVAL, Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY 2011 - PRESENT  
**Piano and Chamber Music Faculty, Performing Artist, Coordinator of Duo Piano Program for 2012** [www.summitmusicfestival.org](http://www.summitmusicfestival.org)

PUBLISHED REVIEWER, BLOG POST WRITER 2010 - PRESENT  
**Chicago Music Examiner, Audio-Video Club of Atlanta, Merdinger's Musings.**

Links:

A-VCOA: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B\\_aztx8WSmlGUkZad0pPcVBSQzVBdU5sSUtaYWV0THJqbDVZ](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_aztx8WSmlGUkZad0pPcVBSQzVBdU5sSUtaYWV0THJqbDVZ)

Merdinger's Musings: [www.susanmerdingerpianist.com/merdinger-s-musings/blog/my-new-mantra-to-my-students-look-listen-love](http://www.susanmerdingerpianist.com/merdinger-s-musings/blog/my-new-mantra-to-my-students-look-listen-love)

NEW MUSIC SCHOOL OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL 2008 – 2013  
**Piano Faculty Member.**

Teacher of over 20 students, all ages and levels. Recruited new students, performed in Faculty Recitals, attended monthly Piano Department meetings to design proprietary Piano Curriculum for NMS.

FINE ARTS MUSIC SOCIETY FESTIVAL at Brown County, Indiana 2012-2014  
**Founding Artist Faculty Member and Performer**

BOSTON LATIN PUBLIC SCHOOL, Boston, MA 2010  
**Consultant, Joy of Singing Initiative**

FOCUS ON THE ARTS, Highland Park, IL 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019  
**Lecturer / Recitalist**

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD, Ridgewood, NJ 2002 – 2003

**Music Director**

- Collaborated with the Reverend and Music Committee to plan music program.
- Organized and performed in *Performer Concert Series*, including chamber, folk, new age, pop, and ethnic music styles.
- Directed two choruses and conducted piano and flute performances at weekly Sunday services.
- Selected all music, rehearsed and performed with guest musicians; managed music budget.

PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TEACHERS GUILD OF NEW JERSEY, NJ 2000 – 2003  
**Lecturer / Performer / Adjudicator for student competitions**

ELEGANT ENTERTAINMENT, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut 1986 —2003  
**Founder / Music Director**

- Provided musical entertainment for benefits, fundraisers, weddings, country clubs, night clubs, and corporate functions in the tri-state metropolitan area; performed as pianist and flutist.

TEMPLE BETH OR, Washington Township, NJ 1992 – 1994  
**Organist / Accompanist (with Cantor Mandy Beckenstein)**

GLORIA DEI CHURCH, New Milford, NJ 1990 – 1992  
**Choral Director / Organist**

YJCC OF BERGEN COUNTY, Washington Township, NJ 1990s  
**Community Music Lectures, Solo Recitals**

TEMPLE BETH EL, New Rochelle, NY 1986 – 1989  
**Organist / Accompanist (with Cantor Lawrence Avery)**

CONNECTICUT HEBREW CHORALE, New Haven CT 1983-1985  
**Accompanist**

THE GRADUATE CLUB, New Haven, CT 1983-1985  
**Pianist, Background Music Entertainment for Dining and Parties**

GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOW 1983-1985  
**Yale School of Music, Yale University, New Haven, CT**

- Taught Secondary Piano Lessons to Graduate Students in the School of Music and Yale College Undergraduates.

## STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

### Students have won top prizes in the following competitions:

- The American Prize
- The Global Music Awards
- Chicago Symphony Youth Piano Auditions
- Walgreen's National Concerto
- Bel Canto Foundation
- North Suburban Symphony Young Artist
- MusicChorale
- American Protege
- Bradshaw and Buono International Piano
- Barry Alexander International Voice and Violin
- Illinois High School Association
- Illinois Music Educators Association
- Grandquist
- Illinois Music Association.
- Great Composers- Best Performance
- Elite Music Competition

### Students Have Been Accepted to or Attended Prestigious Music Schools & Universities Including:

- Eastman School of Music
- Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music
- Northwestern University
- Indiana University- Jacobs
- University of Rochester
- University of Pennsylvania
- Interlochen Arts Academy
- Manhattan School of Music
- Carnegie Mellon- School of Music
- University of Illinois- School of Music
- Oberlin College/Conservatory
- University of Denver-Lamont
- University of Miami- Frost
- University of Michigan
- Rice University- Shepherd
- University of Southern California

### Sample Student Profiles:

**Annika Huprikar:** Deerfield High School Junior, 4.0 GPA, AP Scholar with Distinction, Prize-winning Pianist, Composer, Entrepreneur, Leader. [www.annikahuprikarpianist.com](http://www.annikahuprikarpianist.com)

**Xiaoping Wang:** Prize-winning pianist, currently Interlochen Arts Academy Senior. [www.xiaopingwangpiano.com](http://www.xiaopingwangpiano.com)

**Jean-Luc Vaval:** Published Contributing Writer for Young Hollywood, Dean's List Student at Belmont University- Candidate for Bachelor of Music Business degree.

<http://meritpages.com/jean-luc#education>

<https://www.younghollywood.com/scene/dc-s-legends-of-tomorrow-a-who-s-who.html>

**Stefanie Lynn Greene:** Professional Lyric Soprano, Cantorial Student at Hebrew Union College, Marketing Professional. University of Rochester, BA. Student Cantor for Temple Beth El, Jersey City, NJ.

[www.stefanielynngreene.com](http://www.stefanielynngreene.com)

**Sarah Michelle Greene:** Professional Violist, Violinist, Vocalist. Eastman School of Music, BM, University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music, Graduate Certificate in Performance. Recording Artist, Violist for Lincoln Center Stage. [www.sarahmgreene.com](http://www.sarahmgreene.com)

**Scott Greene:** Music Producer, Composer, Engineer, Clarinetist. University of Illinois School of Music, BA, BM. Aka Megephonix. Scott Greene's original music has been licensed by Leo Burnett Ad Agency, Universal Music Studio, Fox TV and more.

[www.scottgreene.com](http://www.scottgreene.com)

## SERVICE

### CONCERT FUNDRAISERS

David Yellin Teachers College, Jerusalem, Israel

Solomon Schechter of West Hartford, CT

B'nai Brith, Westchester County, NY

University of Illinois-Chicago, School of Medicine, Robotic Surgery Program

Pianissimo! Fundraiser for Commissioning Composers and Sponsorship of Debut Concert

Scholarship Fundraiser for Fine Arts Music Society, Chicago, IL and Brown County, IL

### OUTREACH CONCERTS

Highland Park Country Club, Senior Citizens, "Live on the Links"

Self-Help Home, Chicago, IL

Sedgebrook Assisted Living, Lincolnshire, IL

Covenant Village, Northbrook, IL

Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge, NJ

Presbyterian Homes, Evanston, IL

The Mather, Evanston, IL

The Admiral, Chicago, IL

The Clare, Chicago, IL

Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Evanston, IL

Sarah Newman Nursing Home, Mamaroneck, NY

The Willows, New Rochelle, NY

### RECRUITMENT, FACULTY CONCERTS, PIANO FACULTY COMMITTEES

New Music School of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Steinway Artist (December 2012-present)
- Voting Member of NARAS (National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences), since 2012.
- Baldwin Piano Concert Artist (1988-2012)
- *Interviewer*, Yale Alumni Schools Committee (20+ years)
- College Music Society (CMS)
- Chicago Area Music Teachers Association (CAMTA)
- Music Teachers' National Association (MTNA)



## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Conversant in Spanish
- Concert-Proficient semi-professional Flutist
- Basic computer proficiency (Mac or PC) plus Website Design and Management: Sample Website Designs: [www.sarahmgreene.com](http://www.sarahmgreene.com), [www.pianissimoensemble.com](http://www.pianissimoensemble.com), [www.thefivegreenes.com](http://www.thefivegreenes.com), [www.charlespikler.com](http://www.charlespikler.com)

## REFERENCES

**Lawrence Block**, Founder and Cellist, Highland Park Strings  
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[lawrenceblock100@gmail.com](mailto:lawrenceblock100@gmail.com)

**Charles Pikler**, Retired Principal Violist and Violinist, Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
1255 Fairfield Road  
Glencoe, IL 60022-1067  
Home: 847-835-5362  
Cell: 847-946-2374  
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**Dr. Svetlana Belsky**, Coordinator of Piano Program, University of Chicago  
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