

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 ( March/April 2014) declared that her “Carnival” CD was “exquisitely detailed and full of life”, likening her playing to that of legendary pianists Leonard Bernstein, Annie Fischer and Nadia Reisenberg. Chicago Classical Review referred to her duo piano performance as “Sensational”. 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 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’s current discography includes nine CD’s on the Sheridan Music Studio label - all available on iTunes, CDBaby and Amazon.

Presented by Artists International in her sold-out solo recital debut at Carnegie Recital Hall at age 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, the 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. 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 frequent featured guest artist on WQXR’s *The Listening Room* hosted by Robert Sherman, and on WFMT’s *Impromptu* program hosted by George Preston, *Live from WFMT* with Kerry Frumkin, and the *Pianoforte Salon Series*, hosted by David Schwann, as well as the Cable TV show *Bravura*. Susan was also featured solo recitalist for the Chicago Latino Music Festival and considers the music of Spain and South America one of her specialties. She has also performed for prominent dignitaries and celebrities including John F. Kennedy, Jr., the Governors of Connecticut and New York for many charitable fundraising events. Her summer music festival performances include recitals and concerts at the Chautauqua, Norfolk, Summit, Quimera (Mexico), Lake Tahoe, Fine Arts Music Society and Fontainebleau (France) Music Festivals.

Merdinger enjoys an active schedule performing as a concerto soloist, recitalist, duo pianist, and as a chamber musician. She has toured Europe, Mexico and the USA and has collaborated with members of the New York Philharmonic, the New Jersey Symphony, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. A noted interpreter of the music of Beethoven, Merdinger has been recording for *Live from WFMT* Beethoven’s Complete Sonatas for Piano and Violin and Piano and Cello with National Symphony Orchestra cellist, Steven Honigberg and international prize-winning violinists Ilya Kaler, Michaela Paetsch and David Yonan. Her duo piano partners include her husband, Steven Greene (the Prize-Winning, Merdinger-Greene Duo), and Irina Feoktistova (The Mercury Duo). Ms Merdinger is a Founding member of Sheridan Solisti, The Five Greenes, and Pianissimo! - Chicago’s Premiere Multi-Piano Ensemble. She has been a Visiting Artist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series for six consecutive

years, garnering standing ovations for her performances with the Tononi Ensemble. In recent seasons, Merdinger made her Chicago Solo Orchestral Debut at Harris Theater with The Chicago Philharmonic under the direction of Sony Classical Artist Mattia Rondelli, and her International Orchestral Debut with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico under Gabriela Diaz Alariste. Merdinger also produced and performed in the first *Piano Masters* concert in Chicago, featuring the artistry of two of her prodigy students and the Pianissimo Ensemble in five concertos for solo piano, two pianos, and four pianos with the Lake County Symphony Orchestra directed by Ron Arden. In addition to a solo concerto repertoire of at least 30 concertos, Merdinger has performed with orchestras several concertos or works for two or more pianos by Mozart, Poulenc, Bach-Vivaldi, and Saint-Saens.

In the 2017-2018 season Merdinger was a featured soloist in Cesar Franck's Symphonic Variations and performed Beethoven's Triple Concerto with co-soloists Michaela Paetsch and Steven Honigberg with the New North Shore Chamber Orchestra, in addition to performing in more than 30 solo recital and chamber music concerts.

In the 2018-2019 season, Merdinger returns for her second engagement with the Highland Park Strings under the direction of Robert Hasty performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 on October 21st, and then is the featured soloist with the Northbrook Symphony under direction of Lawrence Rapchak, on May 5th, 2019 performing Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2. Her solo recital appearances will include a California tour in November 2018, as well as many solo and chamber music performances throughout the Midwest.

A passionate advocate of contemporary music, Merdinger has championed works by composers such as Morton Gould, Augusta Read Thomas, Ilya Levinson, Margarita Zelenia, James Stone, Elbio Barilari, Sandro Fazzolari, Aaron Copland, Leroy Anderson, Aaron Jay Kernis, Aaron Alter, and Jeremy Beck- who dedicated his most recent solo piano work (Four Piano Preludes) to Ms. Merdinger. With over thirty solo and duo piano concerti in her repertoire, Merdinger has soloed under many distinguished conductors including Gabriela Diaz Alariste, James Rawie, Mattia Rondelli, Francesco Milioto, Glenn Cortese, Sandra Dackow, Ari Rudiakov, Marvin von Deck, Francis Akos, Ron Arden, 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, FullScore Chamber Orchestra, the Lake County Symphony Orchestra, the Yale Concert Band, and many others.

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 such luminaries as 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, Phillippe Entremont, Byron Janis, Walter Hautzig, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Emile Naumoff, Claude Helffer, 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 organization representing Sheridan Solisti, Pianissimo!, and the Five Greenes.

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