



# Piano Susan Merdinger

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Complete artist information including video, audio and interviews are available at [www.pricerubin.com](http://www.pricerubin.com)

## Susan Merdinger – Full Biography

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. Several recent reviewers have compared her playing to that of the young Martha Argerich. Among her many honors, Merdinger is a First Prize Winner of the 2012 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, 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. In 2014, Ms. Merdinger was awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals in the Global Music Awards for her CD’s *French Fantasy*, *Carnival* and *Soirée*, which have received glowing reviews in publications such as American Record Guide, Classical Sentinel, Audiophile Audition, Classical Candor and the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta. Merdinger’s current discography includes eight CD’s of solo piano, duo piano and chamber music on the Sheridan Music Studio label - all available on iTunes, CDBaby and Amazon.

With a vast repertoire spanning three centuries, Merdinger has toured Europe and the USA under the auspices of the International Concert Administration Foundation. Merdinger performs as a concerto soloist, recitalist, duo pianist, and as a chamber musician with principal members of the New York Philharmonic, the New Jersey Symphony, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and many other renowned musicians, including her own family “The Five Greenes”, and Pianissimo!-Chicago’s Premiere Piano Ensemble. She has been a Visiting

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## Susan Merdinger – Full Biography

Artist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series for four consecutive years, garnering standing ovations for each of her performances with the Tononi Ensemble at The Art Institute and at Symphony Center. In June 2013, Merdinger made a triumphant Chicago Orchestral Debut at Harris Theater with The Chicago Philharmonic under the direction of Sony Classical Artist Mattia Rondelli performing works by Gottschalk and Gershwin. Highlights of the 2014-2015 Concert Season include performing Schumann's *Piano Concerto* with the Highland Park Strings under the direction of Francesco Milioto, a WFMT recital and recording of a world premiere of Elbio Barilari's *Saxon Variations* in a program of Spanish music in March 2015, a Chamber Music program with Tononi Ensemble for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series at the Art Institute in March, and appearances at Highland Park's FOCUS on the ARTS festival in April and Make Music Chicago in June.

Performing her sold-out solo recital debut in Carnegie Recital Hall at age twenty-five, 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, and The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Hall. Merdinger's live performances and recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, WFMT, WDAV, CKWR (Canada), BRT-3 (Belgian National Radio), and BBC Television (United Kingdom). She been a featured guest artist on WQXR's "The Listening Room" hosted by Robert Sherman, and on WFMT's "Impromptu" program hosted by George Preston, 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 regularly appears at Steinway Piano Galleries and recital series throughout the Chicago area. She has also performed for prominent dignitaries including John F. Kennedy, Jr., and 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 and Fontainebleau Music Festivals.

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A passionate advocate of contemporary music, Merdinger has championed works by composers such as Morton Gould, Augusta Read Thomas, Ilya Levinson, Elbio Barilari, Aaron Copland, Leroy Anderson, and Aaron Jay Kernis. With over thirty solo and duo piano concerti in her repertoire, Merdinger has soloed under many distinguished conductors including Mattia Rondelli, Francesco Milioto, Glenn Cortese, Sandra Dackow, Ari Rudiakov, Marvin von Deck, Francis Akos, Ron Arden, Michael Holian, Richard Thurston, and Barry Hoffman with both professional and community orchestras including the Chicago Philharmonic, the Highland Park Strings, the Rockland Symphony, Adelphi Chamber Orchestra, Lake Forest Civic Orchestra, the Yonkers Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Orchestra of New Jersey, the Westchester Chamber Orchestra, the Northwest Chicago Symphony Orchestra, FullScore Chamber 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 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, Phillipe Entremont, Byron Janis, Walter Hautzig, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Emile Naumoff 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. Merdinger has served on the finals jury for the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Concerto Contest, the New Jersey Music Teachers Association, and the Hartman Stickley Memorial Piano Competition, among others. Susan Merdinger is currently on the faculty of the Summit Music Festival in New York, and is the Artistic Director and Founder of Sheridan Music Studio, Pianissimo!, and the Five Greens.

[www.susanmerdinger.com](http://www.susanmerdinger.com) | [www.pianissimoensemble.com](http://www.pianissimoensemble.com)  
[www.thefivegreens.com](http://www.thefivegreens.com)

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## Susan Merdinger – Program Biography

"Interpretation that showed intelligence and originality...freshness and spontaneity that enchanted the listener....An afternoon of brilliant piano playing."

**-Richard Karpen, *World Art and Craft Magazine***

"Schumann playing of eloquent expression and exquisite beauty"

**-*Fanfare Magazine***

"Spellbound from first note to the last"

**-*Fanfare Magazine***

"Ms. Merdinger again demonstrates her ability to convey both raw power and emotion with subtlety and refinement....An abundantly diverse display of passion, pleasure, reflection, and beauty..."

**-*Classical Candor***

Performances by Steinway Artist Susan Merdinger have been hailed as "Tender and impassioned" by the *Glasgow Herald* and "Breathtaking" by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. In April 2014, *Fanfare Magazine* declared that "Merdinger has the magic touch", and likened her playing to that of the legendary pianists, Leonard Bernstein, Annie Fischer and Nadia Reisenberg.

Among her many honors, Merdinger is a Winner of the Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition, the Artists International Young Musicians Competition and the Dewar's Young Artist Award in Music. Most recently Merdinger was awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals in the 2014 Global Music Awards for her *French Fantasy*, *Carnival* and *Soirée* CDs, all of which have received glowing reviews in publications such as *The American Record Guide*, *Fanfare Magazine*, *Audiophile Audition*, *Classical Candor* and *Classical Sentinel*. Performing her sold-out Solo Recital Debut in Carnegie Recital Hall at age twenty-five, Merdinger has continued to grace the stages of some of the world's best concert halls and her solo, chamber music and concerto performances have been broadcast on radio and television throughout the USA, Europe and

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## Susan Merdinger – Program Biography

Canada. Currently, there are over 250 videos of her live concert performances available on her YouTube Channel.

A Visiting Artist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series, Susan has been a featured soloist with numerous orchestras and made her debut at the Harris Theater with The Chicago Philharmonic in 2013, performing Gottschalk and Gershwin. In the 2014-2015 season, Merdinger performed Schumann's *Piano Concerto* with the Highland Park Strings under direction of Francesco Milioto, and returns to The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series on March 22nd, to perform with the CSO Tononi Ensemble works by Field, Glinka and Dvorak. In April, she appears twice at Highland Park High School's biennial festival, FOCUS on the ARTS. She is also a Founding Member of Chicago's Premiere Piano Band-Pianissimo!, which will perform on Make Music Chicago Day on June 21st, and make its Official Debut in the Fall of 2015, performing newly commissioned works and arrangements and transcriptions being created expressly for this virtuoso piano ensemble.

Trained at Yale University, the Yale School of Music Fontainebleau (France) School of Music, and the Manhattan School of Music, Susan is currently on faculty at Summit Music Festival in New York, the Burgos Music Festival in Spain and is Artistic Director and Founder of Sheridan Music Studio of Highland Park, Pianissimo! and The Five Greenes.

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## Susan Merdinger – Reviews

"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*

"Merdinger casts her spell"

"Certain passages simply run under her fingers as if the notes were being pulled out by some wonderful but invisible force beyond her control. I almost got the impression that, in some mysterious way, Schumann was being channeled through Merdinger: it's that good."

*-Lynn Rene Bayley, Fanfare Magazine, April 2014*

"Virtuosic, Refined, Statuesque"

"Her playing, regardless of the composer, is always so deeply expressive, so strongly animated and driven forward by the power of the music itself....Best of all is that the quality behind her interpretations seems spontaneous and instinctive, and never fabricated."

*-Jean-Yves Duperron, Classical Music Sentinel, September 2014*

"Radiant, energetic, aesthetically poised"

"Ms. Merdinger again demonstrates her ability to convey both raw power and emotion with subtlety and refinement....An abundantly diverse display of passion, pleasure, reflection, and beauty..."

I would now have to count Ms. Merdinger's account of Carnival among the outstanding recordings of the score, recordings that include in my experience those of Alicia De Larrocha, Cecile Licad, Mitsuko Uchida, Nelson Freire, Claudio Arrau, and a few others I've probably forgot.....Ms. Merdinger's playing is from

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the outset radiant, energetic, and aesthetically poised. When she needs to apply bravura showmanship, she's ready; when she needs a delicate touch, she's there; when she needs charisma or charm or poignancy, she's on top of the game. These portrayals of Schumann's characters and events sound beautiful, precise, and exciting. The big moments come through with enthusiasm and the soft moments are heartfelt. I loved every minute of her presentation."

*-John J. Puccio, Classical Candor, January 2014*

"Schumann playing of eloquent expression and exquisite beauty"

"Schumann's romantically-fancied dual personalities, whether of the passionate, outgoing Florestan or of the self-reflecting Eusebius, are met by Susan Merdinger with the unerring instincts of an artist, who one senses, has herself experienced the composer's emotional impulses. This is Schumann playing of eloquent expression and exquisite beauty, captured in a recording of distinction befitting this milestone achievement in Susan's career...exquisitely detailed and full of life."

*-Jerry Dubins, Fanfare Magazine, April 2014*

"Merdinger has the magic touch"

"...a fine sense of rubato which makes the plasticity of the music's unfolding sound quite natural and unforced, yet constantly intriguing the listener with its subtle "teasing" of the phrases. In short, she sounds completely inside the music here, giving a performance both joyous and reflective at the same time....Not a single moment in this suite passes by the listener unattentively; everything is exquisitely detailed and full of life. In this suite, often so difficult to pull off, Merdinger has the magic touch."

*-Lynn Rene Bayley, Fanfare Magazine, April 2014*

FRENCH FANTASY: MUSIC FOR PIANO FOUR HANDS

"Flair and verve...Intimate and touching. Strongly Recommended"

"...All in the spirit of good fun is exactly how Merdinger and Greene play it.....If Carnival of the Animals performed on piano four hands intrigues you, Merdinger and Greene certainly play it with the flair and verve it deserves.

Susan Merdinger and Steven Greene are competing in Dolly with a couple of

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classic recordings, one by Robert and Gaby Casadesus on a 1959 CBS Masterworks disc, and the other by the Labèque Sisters (Katia and Marielle) on a mid-1980s Philips CD. I'm fond of them both, but Merdinger and Greene are equally intimate and touching in these brief portraits of proud parents admiring their beautiful young child....This is an appealing program that can be equally enjoyed and appreciated by both children and adults, and it's beautifully played by Merdinger and Greene. The recording, too, engineered by Edward Ingold, captures the players' Steinway model B in a most pleasing acoustic setting. Strongly recommended."

*-Jerry Dubins, Fanfare Magazine, October 2014*

Rosen could not have asked for a better champion of his book that has profoundly influenced pianists and scholars over the past forty years. As did Rosen before her, Merdinger avidly explores the many fascinating ways in which the three great figures of the era – Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven – challenged one another and built on each other's discoveries.

"The Classical Style"

*-Phil Muse, Audio-Video Club of Atlanta*

### "Ebullient...Joie de vivre"

My favorite performance among them is the opening selection, Bach's cheerful Toccata in G, in a buoyant reading that introduces the high spirits of Merdinger's musical personality. Another highlight is the Mendelssohn Rondo Capriccioso that concludes the disc, in which Merdinger delivers a fervent, high-powered introduction and an ebullient scherzo that suggests the joie de vivre of her Schumann decades later. "Retrospection CD"

*-Paul Orgel, Fanfare Magazine*

"Considerable Virtuosity"

"Merdinger plays with great amounts of energy, a good feel for romantic and impressionistic repertoire, plenty of passion and power and a considerable range of tonal color and shadings...Her performance of Haydn's Sonata No. 52 in E-flat major showed her ability to get around the keys quickly and toss off lots of flashy passagework...In Debussy's "Estampes" and "L'Isle Joyeuse", the pianist summoned interesting and lovely tone colors, delicately placed cascading

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## Susan Merdinger – Reviews

figuration and well-placed harmonic voicing...The Sonata in B major, Op. 147 by Schubert was played with care and pleasant touch and pedal effects...Lovely lyrical moments... Sparkle and zip!"

*-Frances Brancalone, Gannett Westchester/Rockland Newspapers*

"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*

"Exciting performance here by Susan Merdinger"... of Debussy's "L'Isle Joyeuse"...Wow! That's quite something! Obviously, Morton Gould's "Pieces of China" has a quirky humor and flair to it that's very special and you play it that way too...The critic in the Glasgow Herald referred to "Plenty of youthful vigor and commitment and an exhilarating, whirlwind performance" and that would apply, I think, to the Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 in C-sharp minor we've just heard.

*-WQXR: The Listening Room- Robert Sherman*

"Bravo - Keep making music!"

"I want to express my pleasure not only of your interpretation of my work, but with your whole concert at Merkin Concert Hall. I thought your performance of my "Pieces of China" was excellent- as I did the Haydn and the rest of the program."

*-Morton Gould, Composer and President of ASCAP*

### Reviews - ["Courageous Debut"](#)

"Susan Merdinger offered a daring, enormously joyous presentation of Schumann's Carnival, which captured and transfixed the audience...Her fast, strong technique was unbelievable...Her grasp of the large structural sweep of Beethoven's Op. 109 was truly amazing, and her well thought out shaping of the multi-layered variations demonstrated great insight...Breathtaking..Refreshing. Cries of bravo and enthusiastic applause were the thanks this musician received for her generously endowed gifts."

*-Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany*

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"Impressive Young Artist"

"A spectacular piano concert...Susan Merdinger combines great musical sensibility with enormous technical facility..."

*-Saarbrücken Zeitung, Germany*

"Tender and impassioned playing"

"...Plenty of youthful vigor and commitment..."

An exhilarating, whirlwind performance."

*-The Glasgow Herald, Scotland*

"Stylish, Elegant Mozart, Exciting Gershwin"

"Miss Merdinger commands a surprising power at the piano...quick and spiritual reaction, the highest ability and experience...."

*-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... (she) shows her mastery of the piano in endless differentiation. Her musicality and her intuition originate directly from her pure heart...Susan Merdinger is a most promising pianist whose honesty will be honored with a magnificent future."

*-Het Vaderland, Holland*

"With 40 years of experience as a concert manager, and having heard thousands of pianists, and having accepted only two hundred of them, I may tell you that Ms. Merdinger's playing is so special since it not only has the refined musicality and astounding technique, but also the maturity and the phantasy which makes her music so sparkling...We feel that she is the top among the American pianists of her generation."

*-Harry de Freese, International Concert Administration*

"One of the great pianists of all time"

"...Susan's playing of the piece radiates the inner glow of real warmth and well-being that spring from the pages of one of Schubert's more optimistic and

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playful works, a score free of the dark and disturbing currents that swirl menacingly through much of his music. Schubert sounds genuinely happy in this sonata, and so does Susan Merdinger.

Moving on to the Brahms Rhapsodies, I can truly say that I am agape at the declamatory power with which Susan delivers these works. The only word I can think of to describe her readings and her playing is volcanic. Her tempos in both Rhapsodies are fast, faster than I think I've ever heard these pieces played before. But it's not just the energy and thrust with which she launches into these scores that make her performances so gripping; from bar one, the listener is plunged into a boiling, roiling, white-hot cauldron of emotional turmoil. It's as if we've been dropped into the midst of Jupiter's storm that has already been raging for hundreds of years without end before we got there.... I spoke above of Susan's gripping intensity from bar one; I'll also say that bar none, 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."

*-Jerry Dubins, Fanfare Magazine 11/2014*

"Spellbound from first note to last"

"My first exposure to Susan Merdinger's playing was so positive that I jumped at the chance to review this, her latest CD....In the Debussy, Merdinger plays with a tighter style and clear sense of structure. These are simply marvelous performances of the Estampes. She sets and maintains a magical mood here; I was spellbound from first note to last.

In Liszt's overblown showstopper based on the quartet from Rigoletto, Merdinger actually makes music of it by her relaxation of tempo and imaginative phrasing. Whether Liszt himself would have played in this style is of course unknown, but although the gist of the piece is to show off one's technique Merdinger finds new and lovely things to say in it. The little flourishes at the ends of her phrases are tossed off in a way that reminded me of snowflakes falling in moonlight. Of course her playing of the theme is not in the same style or structure as the original, but neither is Liszt's music. She concludes her recital with an imaginative and surprisingly Hungarian-sounding rendition of

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the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12, making the music almost float in the air during the soft, slow passages, a trick I've not heard another pianist pull off.

In toto, then, an interesting and thoughtful recital by a thinking pianist who doesn't fit into a cookie-cutter style. Recommended."

*-Lynn René Bayley, Fanfare Magazine 11/2014*

"Perfect balance and sense of timing"

"Performing on a 7-foot Steinway B ideally suited for the music at hand, the team of pianists Susan Merdinger and Steven Greene give us a sparkling recital of French music for the four hands repertoire. On the program are choice works by Camille Saint-Saëns, Gabriel Fauré', and Maurice Ravel that educators have frequently used for the music appreciation of children. The smoothly integrated performances by spouses Merdinger and Greene have a perfect balance and sense of timing. As engineered by Ed Ingold, the CD sounds very beautiful."

*-Phil Muse, Audio-Video Club of Atlanta, December 2014*

"Brilliant Piano Playing"

"Those fortunate enough to attend last Sunday's recital were well-rewarded...Ms. Merdinger opened her recital with three short preludes by Gershwin, all of which were rendered with the rhythmic vitality and suaveness essential to making that composer's music convincing... There then followed what was perhaps the most challenging composition on the program, the famous "Wanderer" Fantasie by Schubert. This work, in the hands of less competent pianists can sound as though it were written against, rather than for the piano. Such was not the case when Ms. Susan Merdinger brought her formidable talents to bare upon it. She was able to navigate even the most treacherous passages with a skill that made it seem deceptively easy at times, and with an interpretation that showed both intelligence and originality...freshness and spontaneity that enchanted the listener..."

The enthusiastic response of the audience brought Ms. Merdinger back to the stage for an encore. She chose a Moskowski etude, full of "sparklers" as she said, and a lighter touch executing keyboard pyro-technics one couldn't have imagined.

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## Susan Merdinger – Reviews

It was a delightful afternoon of brilliant piano playing and the public can look forward to hearing Ms. Merdinger in the role of soloist....”

*-Richard Karpen, Composer and Music Critic, World Art and Craft Magazine*

**In the News** (Links to Susan Merdinger press clippings)

[Audiophile Audition](#)

[Chicago Tribune/Highland Park News](#)

[Musical America News Story](#)

[Global Music Awards Announcement](#)

[Mainly Piano by Kathy Parsons](#)

[CSO Chamber Music Series- Rivers Festival](#)

[Latino Music Festival Announcement](#)

[Arte e Vida Chicago](#)

[WFMT Fiesta! Fresh Ink Blog](#)

[Harris Theater Chicago](#)

[Robotics Institute Concert Event](#)

[North Suburban Symphony Article](#)

[Susan Merdinger and the Elaris Duo](#)

[Northbrook Public Library- Pikler and Merdinger](#)

[NY Times- Susan Merdinger to marry in June](#)

[Newspaper Reviews from 1986-1990](#)

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## Susan Merdinger – Testimonials

### "You are just an outstanding pianist and orchestral player"

Dear Susan,

I can't thank you enough for your role in yesterday's concert. You are just an outstanding pianist and orchestral player. That doesn't always exist in the same player, so I really appreciated the opportunity to work with you. The Bartok came off amazingly well and sounded extremely professional by everyone, so I was very pleased. We certainly had a great audience and you cannot complain about a full house! Hope you have a great Thanksgiving and we have the opportunity to work together again!

*-Joseph Glymph, Music Director, Classical Symphony Orchestra, Chicago, IL*

### "Fantastic and inspiring"

Susan Merdinger is a wonderful musician, fantastic piano player and inspiring teacher! She is an enthusiastic advocate of contemporary music and is a great collaborator on top of that! I recommend her highly for solo, chamber and orchestral engagements. October 8, 2012

*-Ilya Levinson, Assistant Professor, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois*

### "Phenomenal artist...a true master"

Susan Merdinger is a phenomenal artist in the "true sense" of the latin word (a creative person with exceptional skills and comprehensive culture). In a world where only technical skills seem to prevail she is one of the rare examples where the language of the keyboard is still the language of the mind and soul. I love the culture behind music and truly agree with Huizinga that art without historical insights and its philosophical background is meaningless. In my life I met many music performers and so-called music teachers and always became disappointed with the intellectual relationship and the ability to sustain "notes" with thoughts, colors, feelings, arguments...When I met Susan, and began studying piano under her guidance, I understood again the importance of the high quality communication between a student and a master. Learning becomes a complex and deep bi-directional process of fascination, curiosity, interest, charm. The time spent in this process becomes as sparks in a dark night, opening new perspectives, giving ideas and direction.

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## Susan Merdinger – Testimonials

Susan is a true master with all the qualities of sensibilities, charm, culture, and technical skills.

*-Dr. Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti, Professor and Chief of Surgery, University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago, IL*

### **"Outstanding pianist, charming personality"**

Susan Merdinger is an outstanding pianist. Not only has she excelled in the Doctoral Program at the Manhattan School of Music, but also last season appeared twice as soloist with the Westchester Chamber Orchestra, gave at least 20 solo recitals throughout New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and then made a spectacular debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as a prize winner of Artists International. All these appearances and Susan's great critical acclaim throughout the U.S.A. and Europe have enhanced both her reputation and that of our school. Not only is she a fine pianist, but also a charming personality, a reliable person and a wonderful ensemble player.

*-Constance Keene, Manhattan School of Music, New York City, New York*

### **"Truly gifted young artist"**

Dear Ms. Merdinger,

It was indeed a pleasure for Artists International to present you in your New York Debut as a Winner of its 1986 Young Artists Auditions. You played beautifully, and your interpretations were not only very musical, but were full of color and the imagination of a truly gifted young artist.

*-Leo B. Ruiz, Artists International, New York City, NY*

### **"Refined Musicality and astounding technique"**

With 40 years of experience as a concert manager, and having heard thousands of pianists, and having accepted only two hundred of them, I may tell you that Ms. Merdinger's playing is so special since it not only has the refined musicality and astounding technique, but also the maturity and the phantasy which makes her music so sparkling...We feel that she is the top among the American pianists of her generation.

*-Harry de Freese, International Concert Administration*

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**"Dancing and sparkling perfectly"**

Dear Susan,

The Chopin G minor Ballade showed many personal touches, much variety of characterization and warmth of singing melody. I particularly appreciated the balletic E-flat section which is so often rushed to death. You got it dancing and sparkling perfectly. You ended the piece with just the right combination of fire and dignity and doom....The Mozart D major Sonata was a joy, with energy, good style and crisp execution, and the perfect amount of pedal. The Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody showed your finest work. You played with zest and security, even in the famously dangerous stride-bass sections. This is no easy piece to bring off, let alone have some real fun with it the way you did.

*-Anthony Morss, Conductor, New York City, NY*

**"Invaluable advice and recommendations"**

I have had the pleasure to work with Ms Merdinger during the 2010 Midwest Young Artists Concerto Competition where she accompanied my son. She was there for him all the way through, providing invaluable advice and recommendations. Before we met Ms Merdinger, I have never seen an accompanist who would put so much effort and preparation as she did to ensure my son's success in the competition. He was named an overall junior division winner that year and Ms Merdinger's work with him was absolutely instrumental in winning this difficult competition. August 22, 2011

*-Peter Ganev, Highwood, IL*

**"Exceptional beauty and artistry"**

Susan Merdinger performs classical piano repertoire with exceptional beauty and artistry. Her interpretation of all musical genres and deep insight into composition allows her to provide breathtaking performances in recitals, competitions and on the concert stage. Susan's passion for and experience with all classical music literature allows her to collaborate and support musicians who aspire to perform compositions combining piano, voice, strings, woodwinds and other types of musical instruments.

As a teacher, Susan provides a comprehensive analysis of musical structure, accent, voicing, rhythm, harmony and interpretation. She has helped her piano students understand the structure and achieve the fingering and phrasing for

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## Susan Merdinger – Testimonials

the most complicated musical passages. She provides the support and encouragement required by students who want to excel while performing in recitals, competitions and master classes. Susan is surrounded by family, friends and peers who she has helped grow musically and personally and we are all thankful for her capacity to share her knowledge, skills and dedication to life, music and the arts.

*-Richard A. Frank, Chicago, Illinois, February 24, 2011*

### **"Simply awesome"**

Dear Susan,

Your concert Sunday was simply awesome! You are truly world-class and your colleague was equally marvelous!

*-JoAnn Minds, Evanston Music Club, Evanston, Illinois*

### **"Beautiful, peaceful, uplifting"**

On behalf of the staff and members of the Highland Park Senior Center, I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful concert you and your colleagues performed on November 14th. The talent was unbelievably amazing and the music selection was just perfect for a cold winter's day! Much of the audience, including myself, closed our eyes and allowed ourselves to be transported to another world...a beautiful, peaceful and uplifting place in our music filled thoughts! It was an amazing experience! The admiration expressed to me, by our members, as the concert finished and over the following days made it clear that you touched the lives of many.

*-Laura Frey, CPRP, Highland Park Senior Center Highland Park, IL*

### **"Amazed and thrilled"**

Dear Susan,

Thank you for playing so beautifully on such short notice. Glen Cortese, the orchestra and the audience were amazed and thrilled over your performance. I hope that you will perform with us again soon.

*-Franz Coldwell, Adelphi Chamber Orchestra, Paramus, NJ*

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## Susan Merdinger – Testimonials

### "Brilliance and sensitivity"

Susan Merdinger is an outstanding talent. She combines great intelligence and technical prowess with determination, stamina and drive...Happily, in her case, brilliance is counterbalanced by sensitivity, power alternates with grace.

*-Michael Pollon, Director Emeritus, Westchester Conservatory of Music, White Plains, NY*

### "I could have listened to you all night long"

Dear Susan,

The highlight of the evening for me was when you played Debussy. I could have listened to you all night long...You added something. And I think it is your imagination that enhanced the sound. And that sound was serene. Rain splashing gently on oriental gardens was a clear vision in that hall.

*-Eleanor Ehrenkrantz, PhD, White Plains, NY*

### "Exciting and energizing"

Susan Merdinger brings great enthusiasm to her virtuosic piano performances. Her repertoire is vast and she has a fearlessness that makes performing with her exciting and energizing. September 13, 2011

*-Nora Williams, Violist/Violinist, Chicago, IL*

### "Mastery and sensitivity"

Susan blends her mastery of the piano with a sensitivity for her students. An accomplished pianist whose love of music resonates with her students. Susan is a role model for my daughter, engaging her through instruction, performance and achieving her personal best.

*-Dave Sametz, Highland Park, Illinois February 22, 2011*

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## Susan Merdinger – Discography

All CDs are \$14.99, available on artist website

Click on URL link here to view/purchase:

<http://www.susanmerdingerpianist.com/store>



### Soiree CD

Schubert, Brahms, Debussy, Liszt

*You're invited to experience "Soiree": performances of my favorite composers in an intimate setting for friends and family, along with my musician colleagues. A hearkening back to the 19th Century with works by Schubert, Brahms, Debussy and Liszt.*



### French Fantasy CD

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## Susan Merdinger – Discography

*Merdinger and Greene take you on a journey to late 19th and early 20th century France, a land of Fairy Tales and Fables, Princesses and Castles, Lullabies, Waltzes and Marches, and a menagerie of the most interesting of animal species- including Pianists!*



### Carnival CD

Schumann: Carnival, Op.9; Faschingsschwank Aus Wien, Op.26

*Susan Merdinger plays Schumann: Carnival, Op. 9; Faschingsschwank aus Wien, Op. 26*



### Music for Two Pianos CD

*Music for Two Pianos: The Dynamic Duo of Susan Merdinger and Steven Greene perform Camille Saint-Saens' Variations on a Theme by Beethoven, Op.*

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## Susan Merdinger – Discography

35, Igor Stravinsky's *Three Movements of Petrouchka*, and Darius Milhaud's *Scaramouche Suite*



### Retrospection CD

Susan Merdinger performs works by Bach, Haydn, Chopin, Debussy, Mendelssohn. *Historical Recording from the 1983-1984- recorded at the Yale School of Music. Recording Engineer: Eugene Kimball*



### The Classical Style CD

Susan Merdinger performs works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. *Highlights include Haydn's Sonata in C and Beethoven's Sonata in E-flat, Op. 81a ("Les Adieux")*

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## Classical CD Reviews

### "Susan Merdinger – Soiree" = SCHUBERT: Sonata in B Major; BRAHMS: Two Rhapsodies; DEBUSSY: Estampes; LISZT: Concert Paraphrase on Verdi's "Rigoletto"; Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 – Susan Merdinger, piano – Sheridan Music

*A genuinely honest virtuoso, Susan Merdinger impresses us with a recital set as a Romantic soiree in the grand style.*



Published on February 28, 2015



**Susan Merdinger – Soiree = SCHUBERT: Sonata in B Major, D. 575; BRAHMS: Two Rhapsodies, Op. 79; DEBUSSY: Estampes; LISZT: Concert Paraphrase on Verdi's "Rigoletto"; Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 in C-sharp Minor – Susan Merdinger, piano – Sheridan Music Studio, 65:52 [www.susanmerdinger.com] \*\*\*\*:**

Susan Merdinger, a pupil of a host of stellar luminaries of the keyboard – Claude Frank, Seymour Lipkin, Constance Keene, and Gaby Casadesus, to name a few – assembles a colorful program to disseminate her various virtues at the piano. Merdinger emerges as a natural exponent of the repertory she champions, opening with Schubert's 1817 *Sonata in B Major*, a piece noted for its harmonic audacities, especially given the relative youth of its twenty-year-old creator. The *Allegro ma non tanto* exploits an unusual, "improvisatory" scalar group that embraces B Major, G Major, E Major and F-sharp Major. The *Andante*, emotionally, seems to stray even more far afield, with a middle section and passing dissonances that testify to Schubert's personal *sturm und drang*. The *Allegretto and Trio* revert to a more "conventional" lifestyle, but just barely. The glittery *scherzo* exploits angular accents and agogics that keep an otherwise standard *contredanse* from taking itself for granted. Merdinger's Steinway's upper registers enjoy a limpid purity of sound, courtesy of engineer Tim Martyn. A crisp militancy invests the *Allegro giusto*, much of which plays like a spirited *Moment musical* or a solo version of a four-hand, gentle march in canon.

The transition to the two Brahms *Rhapsodies, Op. 79* (1879) occurs smoothly enough, with the *B Minor's* alternating moods – rather like Schumann's twin personae – martial and poetically melancholy. Merdinger takes the middle section a bit too quickly for my taste, which absorbed this piece via both Giesecking and Rubinstein. Merdinger does communicate the boldly grand proportion of the music with requisite power. The *G Minor* shows off Merdinger's eighth note triplets to advantage and her capacity for potent serpentine bass tones. The music delves into the composer's deep well of sequential patterns, but Merdinger avoids color monotony. We infer from her reading that the large, virtuoso variations in Brahms loom in her near horizon.

The 1903 *Estampes* of Claude Debussy extend Merdinger's color palette of Asia and Spain, and we recall that the composer boasted that he had conceived his three lacquers for "an instrument without hammers." Gamelan sonorities suffuse the *B Major Pagodes*, rife with bells and the musical equivalent of liquid porcelain. The issues of balance and texture here seem to have found in Merdinger their natural resolution, though her keyboard patina remains hard. The beguiling habanera that defines the ultimate evocation of Spain, *La Soiree dans Grenada*, ripples with electric sensuality. Both nocturne and watercolor, the music remains thoroughly Iberian without any direct quote from folk materials. A bright E Major resonates through the *Jardins sous la Pluie*, here provided a decidedly piquant touch from Merdinger in her application of rapid staccatos and rising singing line, based on two children's songs that haunt Debussy at several moments in his creative output.

Liszt's paraphrase upon the aria *Bella figlia dell'amore* from the final act of Verdi's gothic opera *Rigoletto* combines the conflicted emotions of the quartet – despair, flirtatiousness, frustrated ambition, and jealousy – in pearly strings of runs and a repeated, cantilena aria festooned with trills. Delicacy and virility of execution combine in Merdinger's athletic rendition, much in the tradition we know from the likes of Jorge Bolet. The big *Twelfth Hungarian Rhapsody* has had its feminine champions in the persons of Gina Bachauer and Annie Fischer. Merdinger rhetorically dallies with the slow, *lassu* section to extract its martial and whimsical series of variations on the opening progression. The music-box filigree quite captivates, though none has ever surpassed Mischa Levitzky in this episode. Merdinger's grand line then having transitioned to the *friss* section, she indulges in all those color elements that make her piano an authentic vehicle for Liszt's national, *verbunkos* style.

—Gary Lemco



# Susan Merdinger – Repertoire

## CONCERTOS and WORKS for PIANO(S) and ORCHESTRA:

*(Bolded concerti indicates short-notice availability, additional concerti available upon request)*

Albeniz: Rapsodia Espanola, Op. 70 (Two Pianos)

Anderson: Piano Concerto in C major

**Beethoven: All Five Concerti- Op.15, Op.19, Op.37, Op.58, Op. 73 (The “Emperor”)**

Bloch: Concerto Grosso No.1 for Piano and Strings

Brahms: No.1 in d minor, Op.15

Cesar Franck: Symphonic Variations

**Mozart: K.365 (Two Pianos), K.414, K.453, K.467, K.488, K.503**

Mendelssohn: Concerto No. 1 in g minor

**Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue**

**Gottschalk: L’Union, Grande Tarantella**

**Schumann: Concerto in a, Op.54**

**Saint-Saens: Carnival of the Animals (Two Pianos)**

Tchaikovsky: No.1 in B-flat minor, Op.23

**Liszt: No. 1 in E-flat**

Poulenc: Concerto for Two Pianos

## SOLO PIANO—SELECTED WORKS PERFORMED LIVE:

*Bolded works are available on CD or live recordings or YouTube channel*

Albeniz: Suite Espanola, Op. 47

**J.S. Bach: French Suite No. 6 in E**

Toccatas: No.2 in e, BWV 914; **No.7 in G, BWV 916**

Partita No. 4 in D, BWV 428

Barilari: Toccata Gaucha (2011), Saxon Variations (2015)

Bartok: Allegro Barbaro

**Beethoven: Sonatas Op. 2, No.1, Op.10, No.1, Op. 13, Op. 14, Op. 22, Op. 53, Op. 57, Op. 81a, Op. 109**

**Brahms: Ballades, Op.10**

**Two Rhapsodies, Op. 79**

Selected pieces from Op. 119

**Chopin: Four Ballades, Op. 23, Op. 38, Op. 47, Op.52**

Berceuse, Op.57

Etudes, Op. 10, Nos. 4, 5, 12; Op. 25, Nos. 1, 12.

Fantasie, Op. 49

Polonaises, Op. 26, No.1, Op. 53

**Scherzos: No. 2, Op. 31; No. 3, Op. 39**

Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

Selected Nocturnes, Mazurkas and Waltzes

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## Susan Merdinger – Repertoire

**Debussy:** Children's Corner Suite

Arabesques No.1 and 2

**Estampes**

L'Isle Joyeuse

**Selected Preludes**

Faure: Barcarolles: No.2 in G, Op. 41, No. 4 in A-flat, Op. 44

**Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue**

Three Preludes

Gould: Pieces of China (1985)

Granados: Escenas Romanticas

Griffes: Fantasy Pieces, Op.6

**Haydn: Andante and Variations in f, Hob XVII No.6**

Sonata No. 40 in G, Hob.XVI

**Sonata No. 48 in C, Hob.XVI**

**Sonata No. 52 in E-flat, Hob.XV**

**Liszt:** Transcendental Etudes No.3 "Paysage" and No.4 "Mazeppa"

Paganini Etudes No.2 and No. 5

**"Rigoletto" Paraphrase**

**Hungarian Rhapsody No.12 in c-sharp minor**

Liebesträume, No.3

**Mendelssohn: Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 14**

Selected Songs without Words

**Mozart:** Sonatas No.5 in G, K. 283; **No.8 in D, K.311**; No. 10 in C, K. 330; No. 11 in A, K. 331, No. 13 in B-flat, K.333; No.16 in C, K. 545

Fantasy No. 3 in d, K. 397

**Prokofiev: Sonata No. 7, Op. 83**

Rameau: La Dauphine, L'Egyptienne

**Scarlatti: Sonatas K. 96, 113, 159, and 427**

**Schubert:** Sonata in A, Op. 120; **Sonata in B, Op. 147**

Impromptus, Op. 90, Op. 142

"Wanderer" Fantasy, Op. 15

**Schumann:** Papillons, Op. 2

Kinderszenen, Op. 15

**Carnaval, Op. 9**

**Faschingsschwank aus Wien, Op. 26**

Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13

**CHAMBER MUSIC:** *Bolded works are available on CD or live recordings or YouTube channel*

Arensky: Trio in d

Bach: Sonata in D

Elbio Barilari: Darwin's Dream for Piano Trio

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## Susan Merdinger – Repertoire

**Beethoven:** Trio for Piano, Flute and Bassoon, WoO 37

Piano Trio Op. 1 No. 3 in C minor

Piano and Wind Quintet, Op. 16

Piano and Violin Sonata in F, Op. 24 “Spring”

**Piano and Violin Sonata in A, Op. 47 “Kreutzer”**

**Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Cello in B-flat, Op. 11**

The Five Piano and Cello Sonatas, Op. 5 Nos. 1 & 2, Op. 69, Op. 102,

Nos. 1 & 2

**Brahms:**

Sonatas for Violin/Clarinet and Piano in f, **Op. 120 No.1**; in E-flat, Op. 120

No.2

Trio in E-flat for Piano, Violin and Horn, Op. 40

Piano Quartet in A, Op. 26

**Piano Trio in B, Op. 8**

**Sonata for Piano and Violin in d, Op. 108**

**Sonata for Piano and Cello in e minor, Op. 38**

Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Cello in a, Op. 114

Debussy: Sonata for Violin and Piano in g (1917)

Dvorak: Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major

Field: Piano Quintet in A-flat

Glinka: Grande Sextet in E-Flat

Haydn: Trio in G, Hob. XV, No. 25 (“Gypsy”); Trio in C, Hob. XV, No. 21

Hindemith: Sonata for Piano and Trombone; Sonata for Piano and Double Bass

**Khachaturian: Piano Trio for Piano, Violin and Clarinet**

**Ilya Levinson: Shtetl Scenes for Piano Trio** or Piano, Violin, French Horn and Bass (2012)

**Mendelssohn:** Trio No. 1 in d minor, Op. 49

**Trio No. 2 in c minor, Op. 66**

Sonata No. 2 for Cello and Piano in D, Op. 58

Mozart: Piano Quartets No. 1 in G, K. 478 and No. in E-flat, K. 493

Sonatas for Piano and Violin; in e minor, K. 304, in A, K. 305, in A, K. 526, in

B-flat, K.454

Poulenc: Sextet for Piano and Winds

**Schubert:** Trio in E-flat, Op. 100

**“Trout” Quintet, D. 667**

Shepherd on the Rock, for Piano, Voice and Clarinet

Adagio in E-flat for Piano Trio, Op.post. 148

**Schumann:** Fantasie-Stucke, Op. 73

**Piano Quartet in E-Flat, Op. 47**

**Piano Quintet in E-flat, Op. 44**

**Sonata No.1 for Violin and Piano in a minor, Op. 105**

Armando Susmano: Peace Trio

Augusta Read Thomas: Toft Serenade for Violin and Piano (2006)

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**TWO and FOUR PIANO REPERTOIRE:**

*Bolded works are available on CD or live recordings or YouTube channel*

**Bach: Sicilienne; Joy of Man's Desiring**

Elbio Barilari: Canyengue (transcribed from original orchestral work for Four Pianos)

**Brahms: Sonata in f, Op. 34b**

Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Op. 56b

Twenty-One Hungarian Dances (One Piano, Four Hands)

**Sixteen Waltzes, Op. 39 (One Piano, Four Hands)**

**Chabrier: Espana and Valse Romantique**

**Chasins: Rush Hour in Hong Kong; "Carmen" Fantasy; Blue Danube Waltz (arr.)**

Debussy: Petit Suite

Dvorak: Slavonic Dances

**Faure: Dolly Suite**

Gottschalk: Pasquinade and L'Union

**Gould: Two Pianos (1985)**

Ilya Levinson: Fireball (2015) for Four Pianos, composed for Susan Merdinger and Pianissimo!

**Lutoslawski: Variations on a Theme of Paganini**

**Milhaud: Scaramouche Suite**

**Mozart: Sonata in D, K. 448**

**Sonata in C, K. 521 (One Piano, Four Hands)**

**Rachmaninoff: Fantasy, Op. 5**

Suite No. 2, Op. 17

**Six Pieces for Piano Duet, Op. 11**

**Ravel: Ma Mere L'Oye (One Piano, Four Hands)**

**Saint-Saens: Variations on a Theme of Beethoven, Op. 35**

**Carnival of the Animals (One Piano, Four Hands or Two Piano**

Versions)

Danse Macabre (Two Pianos, Eight Hands)

Schubert: Fantasy in F minor (One Piano, Four Hands), and other shorter works

Smetana: Sonata in E Major (Two Pianos, Eight Hands)

**Stravinsky: Trois Mouvements de Petrouchka (arr. Victor Babin)**

Tchaikovsky: Capriccio (Four Piano arr.)

Tcherepnin: Rondo

Zelenaia: Vivaldi's "Summer" from the Four Seasons (2015); Fantasy on Rimsky-Korsakov's Sheherazade (2015). Commissioned by Susan Merdinger and Pianissimo!

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**Selected standard concerto and solo repertoire** for Violin (Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Bruch, Paganini, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Wieniawski, etc), Flute (Mozart, Ibert, Gannes, etc.), Clarinet (Mozart, Copland, etc), Viola (Walton, Brahms, Clarke, Stamitz, Hindemith), Trombone (Hindemith Sonata), Double Bass, Trumpet, Oboe, Marimba.

**Orchestra Piano:** Bloch (Concerto Grosso), Copland (Appalachian Spring), Bernstein (West Side Story Symphonic Dances), Respighi (Pines of Rome, Church Windows), Bartok (Miraculous Mandarin), Stravinsky (Petrouchka), Ravel (Ma M'ere L'oye).

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# Susan Merdinger – Sample Programs

## **Latin American Flair**

Enrique Granados: Escenas Romanticas (Mazurka-Recitativo, Berceuse, Lento, Allegretto, Allegro appassionato, Epilogo)

Fernando Vazquez: Ballade in F-sharp minor (2013)

Elbio Barilari: The Saxon Variations (2015)

— Intermission —

Isaac Albeniz: Suite Espanola (Selections: Granada, Cataluna, Sevilla, Cadiz, Asturias)

Isaac Albeniz: Rapsodia Espanola for Two Pianos, Op. 70 (Merdinger-Greene Piano Duo)

## **All Schumann Programs:**

SOLO: Symphonic Variations, Op.13 and Carnaval, Op.9

CHAMBER MUSIC: Schumann Piano Quintet and Quartet

## **Chamber Music from the Golden Age:**

John Field: Piano Quintet

Mikhail Glinka: Grande Sextet

Dvorak: Piano Quintet

## **A French Fanfare: Merdinger and Greene Piano Duo**

(coordinates with my “French Fantasy” Piano Duet CD)

Gabriel Faure: Dolly Suite

Maurice Ravel: Mother Goose Suite

Darius Milhaud: Scaramouche Suite

Saint-Saens: Carnival of the Animals

## **From Sea to Shining Sea—An American Salute**

George Gershwin: Three Preludes

George Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue

Charles Tomlinson Griffes: Fantasy Pieces, Op. 6

Louis Moreau Gottschalk: L'Union and the Grande Tarantella

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## Susan Merdinger – Sample Programs

### **Austrian Music through the Ages**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: 10 Variations in G, K. 455 on "Unser dummer Pöbel meint" by C.W. Gluck (13')

Franz Schubert: "Wanderer" Fantasy (20')

— Intermission —

Erich Wolfgang Korngold: Märchenbilder, Op. 3 (21')

Robert Starer: Five Preludes for Piano (1952) (10')

Johann Strauss: Blue Danube Waltzes (Arr. Schulz-Evler) (9')

### **The Best of Brahms**

The Merdinger and Feoktistova Piano Duo

Sixteen Waltzes, Op. 39

Variations on a Theme by Haydn, op. 56b

— Intermission —

Sonata in F minor, Op. 34b

**The Classical Style** (coordinates with my CD, "The Classical Style", and my new one coming out- "The Classical Style II")

Mozart: Sonata in C, K. 330

Haydn: Sonata in G, No. 40, Hob. XVI

Beethoven: Sonata in B-flat, Op. 22

Schubert: Impromptu, Op. 90

**Soirée** (coordinates with my "Soirée" CD)

Beethoven: "Waldstein" Sonata, Op. 53, or Schubert: "Wanderer" Fantasy

Brahms: Rhapsodies Op. 79

Debussy: Estampes

Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12

### **Pianissimo!**

Chicago's Premiere Virtuoso Piano Band

Svetlana Belsky, Elena Doubrovitskaya, Irina Feoktistova, Susan Merdinger

Program 1: International Tales from Stage and Screen

Program 2: The Seasons

**Price Rubin & Partners**

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For Booking Information contact:

**Jack Price, Managing Director**

jp@pricerubin.com | <http://www.pricerubin.com>

## Susan Merdinger – YouTube Links

Susan Merdinger, YouTube videos, May 2015

Susan Merdinger, pianist "America The Beautiful" demo video

Gottschalk: L'Union, Grande Tarantella

Gershwin: Rhapsody In Blue

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=r4vxidv1Vio>

(11:04)

[audio with video montage]

Susan Merdinger, pianist "The Classical Style" demo video

Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 26 in E-flat, Op.81a "Les Adieux" (excerpt)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=JaVSvlVgyvk>

(1:51)

[audio with video montage]

Highlights from Steinway of Chicago -Hinsdale Grand Re-Opening Concert

Beethoven: Piano Sonata in B-flat, Op.22 (excerpt)

Debussy: Jardins sous la Pluie (4:45)

Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 (excerpt to end) (8:30)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=c7IsjXDUaTY>

(13:27)

Schumann: Faschingsschwank aus Wien, Op. 26, mvt 5 - Finale

Susan Merdinger, piano

Recorded Feb. 16, 2012

Nichols Hall, Evanston, IL

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=pzRKthQScrU>

(6:40)

Morton Gould: Pieces of China - mvt 5 - China Chips

[https://youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_VO5BlfSQE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=B_VO5BlfSQE)

(2:40)

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## Susan Merdinger – YouTube Links

Liszt: Piano Concerto No.1 in E-flat major, mvt 1 (excerpt)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=0IMclOWRgI>

(1:52)

Mozart: Concerto for Two Pianos, K.365, 3rd mvt - Rondo: allegro

Adelphi Chamber Orchestra, Ari Rudiakov, conductor

Susan Merdinger and Steven Greene, pianos

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=cUBQKGMSs6A>

(8:06)

Schumann: Piano Concerto in A minor, Op.54 - mvt 3 - Allegro vivace

Highland Park Strings, Francesco Milioto, conductor

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=R2FoBrDiz0o>

(11:50)

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No.5 in E-flat major, "Emperor", mvt 3 - Rondo

with Rockland Symphony, Marvin von Deck, conductor

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=l-jrOIS1dk>

(10:04)

Gershwin: Rhapsody In Blue

with North Suburban Symphony Orchestra

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=qJz1lI6KRE>

(20:45)

Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, mvt 2

Ridgewood Symphony, Sandra Dackow, conductor

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=YCVeGZAyxks>

(7:06)

Schumann: Piano Quintet, mvt 4 - Allegro ma non troppo

with the Elan String Quartet

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=191ifmm-MUs>

(8:14)

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### Susan Merdinger – YouTube Links

Brahms: Piano Trio in B major, Op.8 - mvt 1 - Allegro

with Larisa Elisha, violin; Steven Elisha, cello

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=xgAqysjM94I>

(11:14)

Chabrier: Espana (transcribed by composer for two pianos)

Susan Merdinger and Steven Greene, pianos

[https://youtube.com/watch?v=1P\\_Wc9FDySY](https://youtube.com/watch?v=1P_Wc9FDySY)

(6:54)

Ilya Levinson: Shtetl Scenes II - Freylakh

with David Yonan, violin; Christopher Ferrer, cello

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=EwlrE1v1eZU>

(2:13)

Schubert: Trout Quintet

Summit Music Festival

Susan Merdinger, Pianist; Elena Peres, Violin; Junah Chung, Viola;

Eugene Briskin, Cello; Dennis Masuzzo, Double Bass

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=Sb3RNNCCfXc>

(36:45)

Mozart: Sonata for Violin and Piano in B-flat major, K.454

Charlie Pikler, violin [principal violist, Chicago Symphony Orchestra]

Susan Merdinger, piano

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=GE7UwB5NNn8>

(23:39)

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

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

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

[www.youtube.com/user/susanmerdinger](https://youtube.com/user/susanmerdinger)

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## Susan Merdinger – Photo Gallery



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# **SUSAN MERDINGER, PIANIST**

**HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS 60035**

**[www.susanmerdinger.org](http://www.susanmerdinger.org) || [pianista@comcast.net](mailto:pianista@comcast.net)**

**H: (847) 681-8471 || C: (201) 788-1968**

## **QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY**

**Steinway Artist** with an extensive record of success in performing, recording production, concert programming and teaching. Passionate, inspirational, internationally acclaimed performer and Master Teacher, committed to a lifelong pursuit of excellence in the performing arts.

## **AWARDS**

**GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALS: GLOBAL MUSIC AWARDS- French Fantasy, Carnival and Soirée CDs**

<b>First Prize: International Music Competition of France</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>First Prize: Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition, Professional Division</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Special Liszt Award: IBLA Grand Prize Festival and Competition</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Top Honors Prizes, Solo Piano / Duo Piano – 29<sup>th</sup> Masterplayers International Music Competition</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Dewar's Young Artist Recognition Award in Music</b>	<b>1990</b>
<b>Artists International Young Musicians Alumni Winners Series – Distinguished Artists New York Recital</b>	<b>1989</b>
<b>Artists International Young Musicians Competition, Piano – New York Debut Award Winner</b>	<b>1986</b>
<b>Prize Winner – Performers of Connecticut Young Musicians Competition</b>	<b>1985</b>
<b>1st Prize- Westchester Conservatory of Music Chamber Music Competition, Merdinger-Greene Duo Pianists</b>	<b>1985</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize – New York State Music Teachers Association Piano Competition (State-wide Competition)</b>	<b>1979</b>
<b>Semifinalist – New York Chopin Competition, Young Keyboard Artists Association Competition, Murray Dranoff Two Piano International Competition, American Music Scholarship Association Competition</b>	
<b>Competitor – Laureate of major international piano competitions including: Harveys-Leeds Competition, William Kappell Competition, Montreal Concourse de Musique Competition</b>	

## **MAJOR PERFORMANCES**

### **SOLO**

- Carnegie Recital Hall Debut – Presented by Artists International 1987
- Merkin Concert Hall Solo Recital – Presented by Artists International 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
  - Recitals in Scottish National Orchestra Center, Scotland; Dilligentia Hall, the Hague
  - America House- Frankfurt, Germany; Saarbrücken Cultural Center, Germany, BRT-3 Belgian Radio
- STIM.U.LI Concert Series- Solo Recital - Presented by New Music School of Chicago May 2011
- Winners Concert- Carnegie Weill Recital Hall- Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition 2012
- Latino Music Festival: Solo Recital, Chicago, Illinois October 2013, To be broadcast on WFMT



**CHAMBER MUSIC*****2011-2015 Season performances:***

- **Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series:** “Tononi Ensemble” Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago, March 25, 2011 and May 19, 2013 and March 22, 2015; Symphony Center’s Buntrock Hall, October 30, 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, October 30, 2011; Fine Arts Music Society Festival Players, September 9, 2012; “Dynamic Duos” Concert with David Yonan and Steven Greene, December 16, 2012.
- **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.
- **Northbrook Public Library Two Piano Festival:** Merdinger-Feoktistova Piano Duo, March 4, 2012, Merdinger-Greene Piano Duo, March 3, 2013 and Merdinger-Feoktistova Piano Duo March 10, 2013.
- **Concert tours with the Elaris Duo:** Steven Elisha, Cello, Larisa Elisha, Violin. Concerts in Midwest, April 2012 and 2013. University of Wisconsin, Pianoforte Salon, Northbrook Public Library, University of Illinois, Steinway Piano Gallery-Chicago, et al.
- **Carnegie Recital Hall:** American Protege Competition Winners Concert. Collaborator with two First Prize Winners: Sarah Greene, Violist and Scott Greene, Clarinetist. May 28, 2012.
- **Mostly Music of Chicago Benefit Concert:** Duo Concert with Charlie Pikler, Principal Violist, Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Arts Club of Chicago, June 15, 2012.
- **Make Music Chicago:** Solo and Duo Piano Performance, June 2011, 2012. The Five Greenes: 2014.

**Collaborations with the following 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.
- Chicago Symphony Chorus: Laura Boguslavsky, Alison Wahl, Ryan Cox.
- New Jersey Symphony Orchestra/Orpheus Chamber Orchestra: Jonathan Spitz, Principal Cello; Eric Weirich, Violinist/Concert Master;
- NY Philharmonic: Harry Zaratian, Violin;
- ELARIS Duo- Dr. Steven Elisha, Cello, and Dr. Larisa Elisha, Violin; Georgia Southern University
- Lincoln Trio members: Desiree Ruhstrat, Violin and David Cunliffe, Cello
- Virginia Symphony Orchestra and Highland Park Strings: Rachel Fisher, Violin
- International Concert Violinist: David Yonan
- Clarinetist: Walter Grabner, retired from Columbus Symphony Orchestra
- Larry Block, Cellist, and Founder of the Highland Park Strings
- Pianists: Steven Greene, Irina Feoktistova
- Singers: Roberta Brickman, Lawrence Avery, Nathaniel Benjamin, Mandy Beckenstein, Sarah Greene, Stefanie Greene
- COMPOSERS: Augusta Read Thomas, Elbio Barilari, Ilya Levinson, Armando Susmano, Aaron Jay Kernis, Morton Gould, Fernando Vazquez, Victor Pichardo.

**SUSAN MERDINGER**  
**SOLO ORCHESTRAL**

**Page Three**

Collaborations with: Sony Classical Artist, Mattia Rondelli, Glen Cortese, Ari Rudiakov, Sandra Dackow, Marvin von Deck, Joseph Glymph, Philip Simmons, Thomas Duffy, Richard Thurston, Robert Kapilow, Jerome Sala, Barry Hoffman, Francis Akos, Ron Arden, Anatol Lysenka, Michael Holian.

- The Chicago Philharmonic
- Yale Symphony
- Yale Concert Band
- Rockland Symphony
- Highland Park Strings
- Ridgewood Symphony
- Westchester Conservatory
- Adelphi Chamber Orchestra
- Westchester Chamber Orchestra
- Metropolitan Orchestra of New Jersey
- Classical Symphony Orchestra
- Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra
- North Suburban Symphony Orchestra
- North Shore Chamber Orchestra
- Yonkers Philharmonic Symphony
- Northwest Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- 2014: FullScore Chamber Orchestra
- 2014: Highland Park Symphony Orchestra

**RADIO/TV**

- Connecticut Public Radio
- BBC Television of Great Britain
- BRT3 National Radio of Belgium
- Live on WQXR, *The Listening Room*, with Robert Sherman
- WDAV, Classical Public Radio
- CKWR- Canadian Public Radio
- Cable Television Documentary Interview and Performance, *Bravura*
- WFMT, *Impromptu Series* with George Preston, Live performance April 26, 2011; *Fiesta! with Elbio Barilari- March 5, 2015*
- Pianoforte Salon Series- Live performance on WFMT, September 2, 2011 - Duo Piano Concert

***Representative performances in Public Libraries, Universities, Schools, Museums, Community Cultural Centers:***

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago, IL  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Center, Buntrock Hall  
Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center  
Fullerton Hall, Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
University of Illinois, Chicago, IL  
Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL  
Pianoforte Salon, Chicago, IL  
Arts Club of Chicago, IL  
The Driehaus Museum, Chicago, IL  
Steinway of Chicago, Downers Grove, IL  
Columbia College-Sherwood Conservatory, IL  
Midwest Young Artists, Highwood, IL  
Northbrook Public Library, IL  
Highland Park High School, 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 Schechter, 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 the 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  
Unitarian Church of Paramus, NJ

## CRITICAL REVIEWS

The New Haven Register, CT  
 The Daily Times: Westchester-Gannett Newspapers  
 Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany  
 Frankfurter Neue Presse, Germany  
 Saarbrücken Zeitung, Germany  
 The Glasgow Herald, Scotland  
 Het Vaderland, The Hague

Fanfare Magazine  
 Classical Candor  
 Audio-Video Club of Atlanta  
 Classical Sentinel (Canada)  
 American Record Guide  
 Mainly Piano

## DISCOGRAPHY

Available on iTunes, CDBaby and Amazon.

**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.

**"Distinctive Duos": Works by Rachmaninoff, Schumann and Grieg.** Featuring Susan Merdinger, piano; Steven Greene, piano; David Yonan, violin. Recording Engineer: David Schoenberg. Recorded in 2012. Label: Sheridan Music Studio. Release Date: June 20, 2014.  
 Digital Distribution via download only.

**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 WORK EXPERIENCE

- SUMMIT MUSIC FESTIVAL**, Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014  
• **Piano and Chamber Music Faculty, Performing Artist, Coordinator of Duo Piano Program for 2012**
- NEW MUSIC SCHOOL OF CHICAGO**, Chicago, IL 2009 – 2013  
**Piano Faculty Member, Teacher of over 20 students, all ages and levels.**
- FINE ARTS MUSIC SOCIETY FESTIVAL** at Brown County, Indiana 2012-Present  
**Founding Artist Faculty Member and Performer**
- SHERIDAN SOLISTI**, Highland Park, IL 2006 – Present  
**Founder / Musical Director**  
• 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.
- 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**  
• Provide high-caliber curriculum planning, instruction, mentoring, and career guidance to gifted young musicians. Students have been accepted into prestigious university music programs throughout the country.  
• Recruit students for all Sheridan Music Studio Faculty in Strings, Piano and Voice.  
• Accompany music students at competitions, concerts, college auditions, and recordings.  
• Adjudicator for several prestigious local music competitions in Illinois and Indiana  
•
- BOSTON LATIN PUBLIC SCHOOL**, Boston, MA 2010  
**Consultant, Joy of Singing Initiative**  
• Designed and budgeted a new after-school program to increase participation in choral music and offer educational and performance opportunities for students not currently served by the music curriculum.
- FOCUS ON THE ARTS**, Highland Park, IL 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013  
**Lecturer / Recitalist**
- UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD**, Ridgewood, NJ 2002 – 2003  
**Music Director**  
• Collaborated with the Reverend and Music Committee to plan and oversee music program and performances.  
• Organized *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 and prepared musicians; planned and managed music budget.

## **SUSAN MERDINGER**

**Page Six**

PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TEACHERS GUILD OF NEW JERSEY, Hackensack, 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.
- Analyzed client needs and tailored artists and repertoire accordingly to ensure a satisfying music experience.

TEMPLE BETH OR, Washington Township, NJ 1992 – 1994  
**Organist / Accompanist**

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*)**

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

- Taught Secondary Piano Lessons to Graduate Students in the School of Music

## **STUDENT AWARDS**

**Students have won top prizes in the following competitions:** Walgreen's National Concerto, Bel Canto Foundation, North Suburban Symphony Young Artist, MusicChorale, American Protege, Barry Alexander International Voice, IHSA, IMEA, Grandquist.

**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 School of Music
- University of Rochester
- University of Pennsylvania
- Manhattan School of Music
- Carnegie Mellon- School of Music
- University of Illinois- School of Music
- Oberlin College/Conservatory
- University of Denver-Lamont School of Music
- University of Miami- Frost School of Music
- University of Michigan



## 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 and Yale College*

**Master of Music in Piano Performance**, 1985 / **Bachelor of Arts in Music**, 1983, Graduated in three years.

## FESTIVALS

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

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

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

## PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

**Piano** – Constance Keene, Seymour Lipkin, Ward Davenny, Claude Frank, Ozan Marsh, Gaby Casadesus

**Master Classes** – Byron Janis, Eugene List, Walter Hautzig, Abram Chasins, Boris Berman, Donald Currier, Peter Serkin, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Phillippe Entremont.

**Composition** – Martin Bresnick, Frederic Rzewski   **Conducting** – Robert Kapilow, Otto Werner Mueller

**Flute** – Harold Jones, Thomas Nyfenger

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Steinway Artist (December 2012-present)
- The Carnegie Hall Royal Conservatory Achievement Program Founding Faculty Member candidate
- 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)
- Evanston Music Club
- North Shore Music Club
- Yale Club of New York City
- MENSA

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Conversant in Spanish
- Proficient semi-professional Flutist
- Basic computer proficiency, Mac or PC