

SUSAN MERDINGER, piano

Steinway Artist

Winner of The American Prize in Piano (2021)

American Pianist 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.

Performing her sold-out solo recital debut at Carnegie Recital Hall at age twenty-four, as a Winner of Artists International, 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, Sala Felipe Villanueva in Mexico, Ravinia’s Bennett Gordon Hall, the Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center, Fullerton Hall at the Art Institute of Chicago, Logan Center for the Arts, Harris Theater for Music and Dance and The Chicago Symphony Center. Merdinger was presented in her International Debut Recital Tour under the sponsorship of the International Concert Administration, performing throughout Europe.

Merdinger’s live performances and recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, WFMT, WDAV, WMNR, CKWR (Canada), BRT-3 (Belgian National Radio), and BBC Television (United Kingdom). She been a featured guest artist on WQXR’s “The Listening Room” 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”. She has also performed for prominent dignitaries and celebrities including John F. Kennedy, Jr., as well 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 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 and the USA under the auspices of the International Concert Administration Foundation and has collaborated with members of the New York Philharmonic, the New Jersey Symphony, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra and international prize-winning violinists Ilya Kaler, Michaela Paetsch (b.1961-d.2023), Charles Pikler and David Yonan. With over thirty solo and duo piano concerti in her repertoire, Merdinger has soloed under many distinguished conductors with numerous national and international orchestras. In recent seasons, Merdinger made her Chicago 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 Alatríste. In May 2019, she debuted with the Northbrook

Symphony Orchestra under Lawrence Rapchak, performing Brahms' Piano Concerto No.2, and won the Lorin Hollander Award of The American Prize for her Pandemic performance and live stream of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.2 with the Northbrook Symphony under Mina Zikri in October 2020.

Merdinger's live performances and recordings have been broadcast on WQXR, WFMT, WDAV, WMNR, CKWR (Canada), BRT-3 (Belgian National Radio), and BBC Television (United Kingdom). She been a featured guest artist on WQXR's "The Listening Room" 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". She has also performed for prominent dignitaries and celebrities including John F. Kennedy, Jr., as well 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 and Fontainebleau (France) Music Festivals.

Ms Merdinger is a Founding member of Sheridan Solisti, The Five Greenes, and Pianissimo! - Chicago's Premiere Piano Ensemble. She has been a Visiting Artist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series for six years, garnering standing ovations for her performances with the Tononi Ensemble at The Art Institute and at Symphony Center.

A passionate advocate of contemporary music, Merdinger has championed works by living composers such as Morton Gould (now deceased), Augusta Read Thomas, Grammy-nominated composer- Ilya Levinson- who has dedicated several works to Ms. Merdinger including an upcoming Piano Concerto, Aaron Alter- who dedicated his Piano Sonata (2018) to her, Margarita Zelenai- who dedicated several works to Pianissimo!, Judith Shatin, Stacey Garrop, James Stone, Elbio Barilari, Sandro Fazzolari, Aaron Copland, Leroy Anderson, Aaron Jay Kernis and Jeremy Beck- who dedicated his Four Piano Preludes, (2017) to Ms. Merdinger.

The 2023-2024 season features Susan with her Sheridan Solisti Trio (Cyrus Forough, violin and Nazar Dzhuryn, cello) performing at the Elgin Public Library and Waukegan Chamber Music Society works by Schubert, Brahms and Levinson, and Susan performing with the Highland Park Strings as both piano soloist and conductor in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 on December 3rd. In the Spring 2024, Merdinger tours in California and Florida with a new program "All-American Piano Classics," including solo piano works by Amy Beach, Aaron Copland, Stacey Garrop, Scott Joplin, Leonard Bernstein, and George Gershwin, and performs Gershwin's beloved Rhapsody in Blue with the Northbrook Symphony in a "Roaring 20's" program, which will include her daughter, Sarah Greene, the newly appointed BBC Philharmonic Sub-Principal violist, in Walton's Viola Concerto.

Merdinger also hosts her own talk show, Merdinger's Musings, and Co-Hosts Steinway Sundays with Susan and Svetlana. From 2020-2022 she curated the Music with a View Concert SeriesSM and Blue Skies ConcertsSM in Chicago.

Among her many honors, Merdinger was awarded The American Prize's Lorin Hollander Award in 2020, was selected as an Honored Artist of The American Prize in 2019, and is a First Prize

Winner of the 2012 (Professional Solo) and 2017 (Professional Piano Duo) Bradshaw and Buono International Piano Competition, First Prize Winner of the International Music Competition of France, a Winner of the Dewar's Young Artists Award in Music (presented by the late Marvin Hamlisch), the Artists International Young Musicians Competition, the Artists International Distinguished Winners Prize, the IBLA Grand Prize Competition "Special Liszt Award", and the Masterplayers International Music Competition. Ms. Merdinger is the recipient of two Gold Medals in the Global Music Awards for her CD recordings "American Melting Pot" and "French Fantasy". In Fall 2019, she was awarded Best Classical Album in the Clouzine International Music Awards. All of her recordings 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 eleven CD's on the Sheridan Music Studio label - all available on iTunes, CDBaby and Amazon.

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. Her teachers principal teachers included Michael Pollon, Ward Davenny, Claude Frank, Seymour Lipkin, Ozan Marsh and Constance Keene. She studied flute under Harold Jones and Thomas Nyfenger, and studied conducting with Otto Werner Mueller and Robert Kapilow.

Ms. Merdinger is an Artist Faculty of the Summit Music Festival in New York, and Artistic Director and Founder of Sheridan Music Studio - a private music studio, a record label and professional live streaming and recording studio.

Susan Merdinger has been a Steinway Artist since 2012 and an Artistic Advisor for IN.LIVE since 2020.

July 2023