

Susan Merdinger, Pianist

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. 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. Ms. Merdinger was awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals in the Global Music Awards for her CD’s *French Fantasy, Carnival, Four Centuries, and Soirée*, which have received glowing reviews in publications such as American Record Guide, Classical Sentinel, Audiophile Audition, The Whole Note, The Hyde Park Herald, 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 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 included 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, a Chamber Music program with Tononi Ensemble for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series at the Art Institute, and appearances at Highland Park’s FOCUS on the ARTS festival and Make Music Chicago. Performances in the 2015-2016 Concert Season included the Chicago Debut of Pianissimo!, as well as radio broadcasts with Sheridan Solisti and the start of the series of Complete Sonatas for Piano and Violin by Beethoven with Violinist David Yonan on “Live from WFMT”, a concert on the CSO Chamber Music Series at the Art Institute of Chicago and a performance of Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 25 with the North Shore Chamber Orchestra..

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.

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, Anatol Lysenka and Barry Hoffman with 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, Northshore 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, Sheridan Solisti, Pianissimo!, and the Five Greenes.

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www.pianissimoensemble.com

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