



Jack Price
Managing Director

220 West Pershing
Phoenix, AZ 85029

e-mail:
jp@pricerubin.com

phone:
1-800-848-3360

fax:
1-888-439-1186

website:
www.pricerubin.com

CATHERINE WILSON

PIANIST

ALSO "ENSEMBLE VIVANT"

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CATHERINE WILSON BIOGRAPHY

Pianist Catherine Wilson, a native of Ontario, Canada, is one of her generation's most interesting and innovative classical instrumentalists. She has won acclaim as a soloist, recording artist and chamber musician, and has been cited again and again for her effortless, elegant virtuosity, her insightful interpretations that seem to "inhabit the soul of each composer whose work she performs," and her highly personal, eclectic approach to programming. As leader of *Ensemble Vivant*, she has concertized throughout Canada, in the United States and abroad. Her popular ensemble sold out the Ford Centre in Toronto two years in a row, and completed a 27-city tour of the U.S. to enthusiastic acclaim during the winter and spring of 2001.

Although Wilson started piano study with her mother "later than most," she was accepted on full scholarship to Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, receiving a Performer's Degree while still in high school. She went on to the University of Toronto, graduating with a Bachelor in Music in solo piano performance, and then to the University of Michigan — again on scholarship — for graduate work with Theodore Lettvin.

Catherine Wilson's technical and artistic versatility has won her many fans among critics and audiences. A concert or recording of Catherine Wilson's can run the stylistic gamut from the 19th century standard romantic repertoire to the elegant delicacy of Ravel to the syncopation of Scott Joplin to the unique jazz tinged works of George Gershwin. Her renditions of Chopin's music (described as "exquisite" by the *Toronto Star*) have been compared to the great Artur Rubenstein.

In 1999 Ms. Wilson was invited to record Leroy Anderson's Piano Concerto under the baton of Skitch Henderson with the members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. This performance is featured in the PBS documentary "Once Upon a Sleigh Ride," a biography on the life of Leroy Anderson which was broadcast throughout the United States in December of 2000. A CD of the concerto coupled with other Leroy Anderson works performed by *Ensemble Vivant* is scheduled for release in 2002.

Catherine Wilson has made 10 recordings on such prestigious labels as RCA Red Seal, RCA Gold Seal and Pro Arte. Her recordings are heard on classical radio stations around the world, and feature standard repertoire, lighter classics and new works commissioned by Ms. Wilson from such distinguished Canadian composers as Srul Irving Glick, John Burke and Rick Wilkins. A composer herself, Ms. Wilson has written for many CBC Radio Productions. In addition to her concertizing and recordings, Ms. Wilson is the subject of a series of videos produced and directed by the acclaimed director Peter Rosen. She has performed for several heads of state, including Queen Elizabeth II.

CATHERINE WILSON CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“This talented ensemble has demonstrated that it is equally at home with repertoire as diverse as classical, ragtime and contemporary, and the group has received many favorable reviews throughout the United States and Canada. The performances heard here [in “Palm Court Pleasures”] confirm the promise of the reviews....exceptional closeness in this ensemble....The overall effect is joyous and compelling.”

Music Magazine

“I have not heard exquisite Chopin playing like this since last hearing Artur Rubenstein.”

The Toronto Star

“Beautiful playing ... masters the nuances of interpreting.”

RPM Magazine

“Her playing is gentle and romantic, sweet and attractive ... brings her own sound and sensibility to the music.... Every time I have played this recording I have enjoyed it — both for her playing and for the program.”

American Record Guide

“Refreshing ... everything clicks in context.”

Fanfare Magazine

“Vastly entertaining.”

The Toronto Star

“Brilliant young pianist ...”

The Victoria Times-Colonist

“Catherine Wilson plays the Leroy Anderson Piano Concerto with brilliance, clarity and passion.”

Mrs. Leroy Anderson

“The greatest selling point of the ensemble was the players’ masterful interpretive style. Whether playing a lyrical ballad, a spirited rag, or a sensuous tango, the *Ensemble Vivant* captured the appropriate style instantly. The sense of ensemble was likewise impeccable, with entrances, articulations and dynamics mirrored precisely.... An overwhelming success.... The Trio was equally at home with traditional classics or original compositions.”

The Frederickton Daily Gleaner

“A rising star with great talent ... tremendous.”

The Record Sentinel Times

CATHERINE WILSON CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“This listener felt their joy in music-making.... With the style and polish they have, their future is indeed promising.”

The Stratford Herald

“Wilson played each note passionately and purposefully. She flowed flawlessly between musical styles and moods, from ragtime to opera, serious to playful She played with feeling without compromising technical accuracy.”

Vilas County News Review

“Wilson is such an inspiring young lady who can put her feelings and moves to the ivory keyboard. The audience was able to feel with her the feeling in her pieces. She had a way of making the piano talk to everyone.”

The Fort Morgan Times

“As an artist, her goals are ‘understanding the music and reaching its heart ... being able to communicate the soul of the music.’ She succeeds admirably in achieving those goals.”

ArtsForum

“Recognized for her outstanding performance styles in a wide range of music, Catherine Wilson is well-known to Canadian audiences for her classical ‘salon’ recordings. She has a very special following in Metro Toronto, which accounts for her spectacular sellout at the Ford Centre.”

News Release,
Ford Centre for the Performing Arts