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# HONG-MEI XIAO

## VIOLIST

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## *Hong-Mei Xiao, Viola*

Hong Mei Xiao, first prize winner of the Geneva International Music Competition, is the only violist to have won the highest honor in Geneva for the past 12 years. Her musical integrity and her virtuoso technique have gained accolades from reviewers around the world.

A recipient of the prestigious Patek Philippe Grand Prize, Ms. Xiao has made an international performing career as a recitalist and soloist with orchestra. She has concertized throughout Europe, North America, and the Far East, performing in major concert halls such as New York Alice Tully Hall, Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Geneva Victoria Hall, Zurich Tonhalle, Budapest State Opera House, Tokyo Suntory Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Center and Taipei National Concert Hall. She has appeared as soloist with North German Radio Orchestra, L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, European Union Chamber Orchestra, Budapest Philharmonic, Orchestergesellschaft Biel, Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana, Minnesota Orchestra, Israel Ra'anana Symphony, Japan Philharmonic, Aspen Music Festival Concert Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony, Hong Kong Music Festival Orchestra and Taiwan Symphony among others. As an United States Artistic Ambassador, she also toured extensively in Eastern Europe. Hong-Mei Xiao's performances and featured interviews have been broadcast on television and radio both in Europe and in Asia. Her concert recording of Frank Martin's Ballade for Viola and Orchestra has been heard on over five hundred radio stations worldwide. As a special guest soloist, she has given the premiere performance of Alfred Schnittke's Viola Concerto in Geneva with L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. The success of the performance was acclaimed by all three major newspapers in Geneva. The Geneva Tribune heralded her as the "ideal interpreter of the music." As an active chamber music performer, she has collaborated with renowned artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Joseph Silverstein and Cho-Liang Lin.

Born into a musical family in China, Ms. Xiao began her violin studies with her father Xiao Heng, a well-known composer. During the years of her musical training, she was frequently engaged in public performances throughout China. After graduating from the Shanghai Conservatory with highest honors, she was chosen as the recipient of the Asian Cultural Council Award. She completed her study in the United States with violist John Graham, and received her Master of Music degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. As a student, she won the Aspen Music Festival Concerto Competition.

Ms. Xiao recorded the first compact disc that included both the original and newly revised versions of the Bartok Viola Concerto with the Budapest Philharmonic. This recording by Naxos has won high critical acclaim internationally since its release last August. It is also the first recording of Peter Bartok's more authentic version of his father's work.

In addition to being a concert artist, Ms. Xiao has served as principal violist of the Minnesota Orchestra. She is currently on the faculty at the University of Arizona School of Music.

## *Hong-Mei Xiao, Viola*

### REVIEWS

The winner of the Geneva International Competition provided us with an overwhelming, masterful performance.

*The Geneva Journal*

Hong-Mei Xiao and the Budapest Philharmonic give a lively and exciting performance.

*Strad*

Hong-Mei Xiao played with the highest measure of ringing warmth of tone and brilliant technique. The concert demonstrated a special artistry.

*Berlin Morgenpost*

First prize winner of the Geneva International Competition, the Chinese violist Hong-Mei Xiao, thanks to her expressive qualities and noble playing style, seems the ideal interpreter for the concerto. Her rich tone, her solid virtuosity, her sense of phrasing, let the music express itself in a pure way.

*Geneva Tribune*

Hong-Mei Xiao drew enchanting sounds from her viola. Her technical ability stands on an extraordinarily high level. She held the listeners in her grasp with this highly musical and energetic interpretation.

*Westdeutsche Allgemeine*

What most stands out on the whole CD is the wonderful craftsmanship of Hong-Mei Xiao. Her deft touch and feeling for the music comes shining through in this performance with the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra.

*Worcester Evening News*

The talented violist showed herself to be an admirable instrumentalist and an intelligent musician; an ideal velvet sonority and a purity of legato in the cantabile passages, a prestigious and flexible technique with solidity and energy in the virtuoso passages.

*The Courier (Geneva)*

The soloist Hong-Mei Xiao was wondrous.

*Ha'aretz (Israel)*

Hong-Mei Xiao's performances are remarkable technically and expressively.

*Sunday Telegraph*

### Solo Recitals

Solo recital performances in Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Yugoslavia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, and the United States.

### Recordings

Bartok Viola Concerto (Both Bartok-Serly and Peter Bartok versions)  
 with Budapest Philharmonic by Naxos-Marco Polo  
 Brahms Viola Sonata in F minor op. 120, No. 1  
 Hindemith Solo Viola Sonata op. 11, No. 5  
 Frank Martin Ballade for Viola and Orchestra  
 Serly Rhapsody for Viola and Orchestra

### Viola Concerto List

Bartok <i>Concerto</i>	Walton <i>Concerto</i>	Schnittke <i>Concerto</i> <i>Monologue</i>	Holst <i>Lyric Movement</i>
Hindemith <i>Der Schwanendreher</i> <i>Trauermusik</i>	Penderecki <i>Concerto</i>	Mozart <i>Symphonie Concertante</i>	
Berlioz <i>Harold in Italy</i>	Bloch <i>Suite for Viola and Orchestra</i> <i>Suite Hebraique</i>		Martinu <i>Rhapsody-Concerto</i>
Martini <i>Ballade for Viola and Orchestra</i>	Serly <i>Concerto</i> <i>Rhapsody for Viola and Orchestra</i>		Bennett <i>Concerto for Viola and Chamber Orchestra</i>
Druckman <i>Concerto</i>	Denissov <i>Concerto</i>	Piston <i>Concerto</i>	Woolrich <i>Ulysses</i>
Arnold <i>Concerto for Viola and Chamber Orchestra</i>		Telemann <i>Concerto</i>	Hoffmeister <i>Concerto</i>
J. C. Bach <i>Concerto in C minor</i>	Stamitz <i>Concerto in D major</i>	Paganini <i>Sonata per la Grand Viola e Orchestra</i>	
Weber <i>Andante E Rondo</i>	Vaughan Williams <i>Suite for Viola and Orchestra</i> <i>Romance for Viola and Orchestra</i>	Britten <i>Lachrymae</i>	Kodaly <i>Adagio</i>