



Kobayashi/Gray Duo

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Kobayashi/Gray Duo- BIOGRAPHY

The Kobayashi/Gray Duo is in demand throughout the world for their skillful presentations of the works of more than twenty-five 19th to 21st century women composers, alongside performances of the standard repertoire.

They have presented their discoveries of new and unknown works of women composers at national and international conference venues including the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, the International Festival of Women Composers, the Hot Springs Music Festival, and the 2002 International Workshops in Stavanger, Norway.

A 2003 tour to the Western and Eastern Cape Provinces, South Africa culminated in performances of music by women to commemorate National Women's Day.

The Duo began their international collaboration as winners of prestigious USIA Artistic Ambassador auditions, touring South America and the West Indies. Other performances include the Dame Myra Hess Series and radio broadcast at the Chicago Cultural Center and a number of museum series--the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Toledo Art Museum.

The duo has two CDs of works by women composers--Feminissimo! Women Playing Music by Women (2008) and Boldly Expressive! Music by Women (2000). Eight of these works are world premier recordings, including Grande Sonate, Op. 8 by 19th century French composer Marie Grandval, which the Duo edited for Hildegard Publishing Company.

Kobayashi/Gray Duo-Concert Reviews

Kobayashi and Gray gave a breathtaking performance of this highly energetic work
Sharon Mirchandani, IAWM Journal

They have full mastery of their instruments and beyond that are appealing as musicians

Gottfried Maas, Die Burger | Cape Town, South Africa

These two talented musicians collaborated to produce insightful interpretations of works that all richly deserve to be heard more often.

Laurence E. MacDonald, The Flint Journal | Flint, Michigan

The violinist and pianist were in top form and played with with much beauty of tone as well as color of phrasing

Dennis E. Ferrara, On the Town | Flint, Michigan

The stage sparkled with the verve and feeling of these young women artists who performed with such perfection.

Jean Rosen, Mirror | Georgetown, Guyana

Laura Kobayashi and Susan Keith Gray completely won over the Surinamese arts community—thrilling audiences with their virtuosic performances, and inspiring the next generation of Surinamese musicians.

Ambassador John G. Leonard, U.S. Embassy | Paramaribo, Suriname

Susan Keith Gray and Laura Kobayashi displayed all the characteristics of successful Artistic Ambassadors: Youth exuberance, technical virtuosity, in-depth knowledge of American compositions, and great friendliness and poise in dealing with local audiences.

Public Affairs Officer Chaplin, U.S. Embassy | Caracas, Venezuela

The Duo's skill, energy and love they have for the music were all evident in this performance which brought the audience to its feet demanding an encore.

Public Affairs Officer Larry Corwin, U.S. Consulate Post | Castries, St. Lucia

Kobayashi/Gray Duo-CD Reviews

Kobayashi and Gray successfully span the variety of styles the program offers, playing the older, drawing-room pieces with glowing sound and moist sensibility and slashing sharply in the more modern ones. Recommended more widely than to those who simply wish to explore music written by women.

Robert Maxham, Fanfare Magazine (Classical Reviews)

The collaboration, balance, and dynamic of the two musicians are a joy to hear...

Heather K. Scott, Strings Magazine

..... this disc does the valuable job of introducing a handful of female composers of various nationalities whose voices are rarely heard--Polish Grazyna Bacewicz was the only name familiar to me..... The First Sonata (1994) by Spaniard Elisenda Fábregas makes a suitably robust finale, with Kobayashi and Gray reveling in the nimble-fingered and questioning Allegro and its gorgeous central Elegy.

Catherine Nelson, The Strad Magazine

Laura Kobayashi on violin and Susan Keith Gray on piano form a strong, well-matched pair, clearly up to the considerable demands placed on them in technique, expressivity and stylistic playing.

Nadine Sine, Journal of the International Alliance for Women in Music

Laura Kobayashi is a highly educated and talented violinist, who performs at the very highest artistic level..... Now, Kobayashi and her musician colleague Susan Keith Grey have taken on the challenge of a repertoire from composers in much the same situation: highly talented, highly educated, very skilled and more or less unknown.

Anna Braw, Världen Idag (The World Today) | Uppsala, Sweden

This collection of violin-and-piano music from the 19th and 20th centuries is an odd intersection between the "conservative" resurrection of tonality and the "progressive" programming of neglected women composers. Both interests are well served in these committed, vividly recorded performances.

Sullivan, American Record Guide

The compositions live up to the promise of the CD's aptly chosen title as they are "bold and expressive" as well as impeccably performed by the artists..... Each selection persuasively makes its own personal statement, and the entire disc should be of interest to violinists seeking to enhance their repertoire beyond standard works and to general music lovers.

Stanley Chepaitis, Journal of the International Alliance for Women in Music

The cd 'Boldly Expressive' consists of works for violin and piano by six women composers. The 'Grande Sonate' by Marie Grandval alone makes this small anthology worthwhile: fascinating is the music written by this contemporary of Johannes Brahms! But the premiere recordings of Johanna Senfter and Serra Miyeun Hwang are quite impressive thanks to the beautiful performance by violinist Laura Kobayashi and pianist Susan Keith Gray.

Patricia Werner Leanse , Radio Monalisa | Amsterdam, Netherlands

Kobayashi/Gray Duo - Repertoire

* Recorded by the Kobayashi/Gray Duo

ADAMS

Road Movies (1995)

BACEWICZ, GRAZYNA

*Sonata No.3 (1947)

Sonata No.4 (1949)

*Sonata No.5 (1951)

BARNS, ETHEL

Sonata No.4 in G minor, Op.24 (publ.1911)

BARTOK

Roumanian Folk Dances

Contrasts for Clarinet, Violin and Piano (1938)

BEACH, AMY MARCY CHENEY

Romance, Op. 23 (1893)

Three Pieces, Op. 40 (1898)

Lento Espressivo, Op. 125 (192-)

BEETHOVEN

Sonata No.1 in D Major, Op.12, No.1

Sonata No.2 in A Major, Op.12, No.2

Sonata No.5 in F Major, Op. 24

Sonata No.7 in C minor, Op. 30, No. 2

Sonata No.8 in G Major, Op. 30, No. 3

Sonata No.10 in G Major, Op. 96

BOLCOM

Concert Version of "Ghost Rag" for Violin and Piano (1979)

Sonata No.2 for Violin and Piano (1978)

BOULANGER, LILI

Deux Morceaux: Nocturne et Cortège (1911 & 1914)

D'un matin de Printemps (1917-18)

BRAHMS

Sonata No.2 in A Major, Op.100 (1886)

CLARKE, REBECCA

*Midsummer Moon (1924)

COPLAND

Nocturne and Ukelele Serenade (1926)

CRAWFORD-SEEGER, RUTH

Sonata (1926)

DE FALLA

Suite Populaire Espagnole

DIEMER, EMMA LOU

*Before Spring (1997)

DVORAK

Sonatina in G Major, Op.100

FABREGAS, ELISENDA

*Sonata No.1 for Violin and Piano (1994)

FAURE

Sonata No.1 in A Major, Op.13

FRANCK

Sonata in A Major

GERSHWIN-HEIFETZ

Three Preludes (1926/1942)

Excerpts from "Porgy and Bess" (1944)

GRANDVAL, MARIE

*Grand Sonate, Op. 8 (18--)

GRIEG

Sonata in G Major, Op. 8

Sonata in C minor, Op. 45

HELLER, BARBARA

*Lalai: Schlaflied zum Wachwerden? (1989)

HOLMSEN, BORGHILD

Romance Norwegienne, Op. 15 (1911)

HWANG, SERRA MIYEUN

*Allegory (1994-95)

JEREA, HILDA

Dansuri Romanesti (pe motive culse de Bartok) (pub. 1949)

[Roumanian Dances (in the manner of Bartok)]

KAPRALOVA, VITEZSLAVA

Burlesque, Op.3, No.2 (1932)

*Elegie (1939)

KHACHATURIAN

Chant-Poème

KORNGOLD

Much Ado About Nothing Suite, Op. 11

LECLAIR

Sonata in D Major, Op. 9, No. 3

LUND, SIGNE

*Barcarolle, Op.33, No.1 (1900)

MENDELSSOHN

Concerto for Violin, Piano and Strings in D minor

MILHAUD

Suite for Violin, Clarinet and Piano, Op. 157b (1936)

MISHELL, KATHRYN

*Elegy for Violin and Piano (2004)

MOYA

Desbaratada la Ficción del Tiempo (The fiction of time destroyed) (2008)

MOZART

Sonata in G Major, K. 301 (293a)

Sonata in E Minor, K. 304 (300c)

Sonata in A Major, K. 305 (293d)

Sonata in A Major, K. 526

Twelve Variations of "La Bergère Célimène," K. 359 (374a)

Trio in C Major for Piano, Violin and Cello, K. 548

PEJACEVIC, DORA

Romanze, Op. 22 (1907)

Elegie, Op. 34 (1913)

PRICE, FLORENCE

*The Deserted Garden (pub. 1933)

Elfentanz (n.d.)

PROKOFIEV

Five Melodies, Op. 35 bis

Sonata in D Major, Op. 94a for Violin and Piano (1943)

RAVEL

Sonata in G

RICHTER, MARGA

Landscapes of the Mind II (1971)

RISHER, ANNA PRISCILLA

*Mazurka Brillante (1923)

ROGERS, CLARA KATHLEEN

Sonata Dramatico in D minor, Op. 25 (1888)

SCHNITTKE

Suite im alten Stil (Suite in the Olden Style)

SCHUBERT

Sonatina in D Major, D.384, Op. post. 137, No. 1

Duo Sonata in A Major, Op. post. 162, D.574

Rondo Brillante in B Minor, Op. 70, D. 895

SCHUMANN, CLARA WIECK

Three Romances, Op. 22 (1853)

SCHUMANN

Sonata No.1 in A minor, Op. 105

Sonata No.2 in D minor, Op. 121

SENFTER, JOHANNA

*Six Little Pieces, Op. 13, No. 1 and 3

SMYTH, ETHEL

Sonata in A minor, Op. 7 (1877)

STILL

Suite for Violin and Piano: "Gamin" (1943)

STRAUSS

Sonata in E-Flat Major, Op. 18 (1887)

STRAVINSKY

Suite Italienne pour Violon et Piano (1933)

"Danse Russe" from Petrouchka Suite

TAILLEFERRE, GERMAINE

Deuxieme Sonate pour Violon et Piano (1951)

TCHAIKOVSKY

Three Pieces, Op. 42

VIARDOT-GARCIA, PAULINE

*Six Morceaux pour Violon et Piano (pub. 189-)

WARSHAUER, MEIRA

*Bracha (A Blessing) (1993)

ZWILICH, ELLEN TAAFFE

Sonata in Three Movements (1974)

