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# ISABELLA LIPPI

## VIOLINIST



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## BIOGRAPHY

Violinist Isabella Lippi, who has been called "A standout, even among virtuosos", began performing in public at the age of 10 when she made her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She has since performed in numerous recitals and has appeared as guest soloist with orchestras in the United States, Mexico, Europe, and the Far East.

In 1989, Isabella Lippi won the St. Louis Symphony Young Artist Competition, so impressing Maestro Leonard Slatkin, that for the first time in the 55 year history of the competition, the winner (Ms. Lippi) was invited to perform with the symphony in subscription concerts under Maestro Slatkin. Of this program, the *St Louis Post Dispatch* declared, "Lippi introduced rhythmic subtleties into this music of the like that haven't been heard since the heyday of Heifetz."

In addition to the Chicago Symphony and the St. Louis Symphony, Isabella Lippi has performed with numerous orchestras including the Dallas Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, New Orleans Symphony, Tulsa Philharmonic, the New World Symphony under Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, the Mexico City Philharmonic under Enrique Batiz, the San Diego Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Vermont Symphony, Columbus Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica de Bilbao of Spain, and the Moscow Symphony.

Ms. Lippi has won a number of competitions and awards including First Place in the Young Musicians Foundation National Debut Competition, Highest Honors in the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts Talent Search, the Henryk Szeryng International Competition, and the Illinois Young Performers Competition where she performed again with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a live television broadcast under Maestro Hugh Wolff. She was also named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

In January 1993, Isabella Lippi made her New York City recital debut at the 92nd Street Y's Tisch Center for the Arts. Other important debuts included recitals at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Chicago's Ravinia Festival, and the famous Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

In addition to her work as a soloist, Ms. Lippi has participated in numerous chamber music festivals including those of Santa Fe, La Jolla, Mainly Mozart, and the Aspen Music Festival. She was Concertmaster of the Charleston Symphony from 1999-2002 and is currently Concertmaster of the Elgin Symphony.

Ms. Lippi has been a featured artist on a number of radio stations throughout the United States including WQXR in New York, WNIB in Chicago, and KF AC in Los Angeles; and in a nationally distributed educational program entitled *Encounters*. She is featured on a CD on the Koch International label which contains the complete works for violin and piano and the solo works by the late composer, Miklos Rozsa.

Born in Chicago, Isabella Lippi's teachers have included Robert Lipsett at the University of Southern California, Dorothy Delay at the Juilliard School, and Almita and Roland Vamos in Chicago.

## CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Isabella Lippi...transported the audience with a ravishingly beautiful reading of the Olympian "Violin Concerto in D major"...

*William Furtwangler – Charleston Post & Courier*

Adding an interlude of jaw-dropping wonder, soloist Isabella Lippi performed the Carmen Fantasy that Isaac Stern played in Humoresque in 1946. A Bizet medley of acrobatic intensity, she all but started a fire with the blur of her bow.

*Tom Maurstad – The Dallas Morning News*

Stahl and his musicians appeared first to accompany their brilliant concertmaster, Isabella Lippi, in Leonard Bernstein's vibrant Serenade for Solo Violin, String Orchestra, Harp and Percussion. Lippi and her colleagues gave this work a thoroughly expert and idiomatic reading. Just as Bernstein was able to bring classical depth and complexity to Broadway, he also brought the jazzy jive of Broadway to the concert stage - and Lippi caught Lenny's warm, larger-than-life spirit perfectly. She paid him affectionate tribute in glittering virtuosity, shimmering tone and deep feeling.

*Lindsay Koob - Charleston Post & Courier*

### **Recording Reviews for Miklos Rozsa: Various Solo Violin Works – Koch International**

Displaying no evidence of the labors required to give birth to these often tortuous works, Lippi seduces you with her effortless agility and her impassioned soulfulness...This recording takes a place among the very best violin/piano recordings I have heard.

*Robert Hesso - Sterophile*

Isabella Lippi is a fabulous violinist. Though this music sounds natural on the violin, I know that it is extremely difficult to play all the perfect-interval double-stops in tune. Lippi, who made these recordings in 1994 at age 26, is one of the first of the current crop of young violinists from around Chicago who have worked with Almita and Roland Vamos (others include Rachel Barton and Jennifer Ko). They all have great instruments, play with seriousness and confidence, have extremely strong technique, and have won high honors in every major competition in the world. This recording is a perfect introduction to the chamber music of Rozsa. I hope that there are more to follow.

*American Record Guide*

Isabella Lippi is a highly expressive soloist. She tackles the many fiendishly animated passages with great panache but also displays a keen understanding of the music's pastoral colouring and darkly romantic fervour. Sympathetic support from her accompanist and clear, warm sound all help to make this CD a fine and, following the sad news of the composer's recent death, a regrettably timely addition to Koch's Rozsa series.

*RS - Gramophone*

# ***CURRICULUM VITAE***

## **Orchestral Engagements:**

1999-Present	Concertmaster - Charleston Symphony .
2001	Concertmaster - New Hampshire Music Festival Guest
1996	Concertmaster - Pacific Symphony
1996	Guest Concertmaster - Glendale Symphony
1995	Guest Asst. Concertmaster - Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra
1994	Concertmaster - U.S.C. Contemporary Music Ensemble
1994	Concertmaster - U.S.C. Opera Orchestra
1992 & 94	Concertmaster - U.S.C. Chamber Orchestra
1992	Concertmaster - U.S.C. Symphony Orchestra
1988-89	Concertmaster - V.C.I. Symphony Orchestra
1986-87	Concertmaster - Civic Orchestra of Chicago (Ein Heldenleben, Capriccio Espagnole)

## **Chamber Music:**

2000-Present	Midsummer Music Festival (Door County, Wisconsin)
2000	Icicle Creek Music Festival
1998	Henry Bruman Chamber Music Festival
1997	Mainly Mozart Festival (San Diego)
1997	Southwest Chamber Music Society
1997	Lake San Marcos Chamber Series
1995-98	Utah Music Festival
1996-97	"Music Circle" Chamber Series
1996	South Bay Chamber Music Society
1996	Leisure World Chamber Series
1996	Mozart & Co. (Los Angeles)
1994	Mozart in Monterey
1993	Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival
1993	La Jolla Chamber Music Festival
1986	Chicago Youth Chamber Quartet -Far East Tour
1985	First Prize - Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition

## **Teaching:**

1999	Encore School for Strings (Hudson, Ohio)
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## **Education:**

1986-87	Juilliard School
1988-95	U.S.C. - Artist Diploma
Teachers:	Almita & Roland Vamos, Dorothy Delay, & Robert Lipsett