



Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein

Jack Price

Founding Partner / Managing Director

Marc Parella

Partner / Director of Operations

John-Andrew Murphy
Marketing Manager

Mailing Address:

520 Geary Street Suite 605
San Francisco CA 94102

Telephone:

Toll-Free 1-866-PRI-RUBI (774-7824)
310-254-7149 / Los Angeles
415-504-3654 / San Francisco

Email:

jp@pricerubin.com
mp@pricerubin.com

Website:

<http://www.pricerubin.com>

Yahoo!Messenger

pricerubin



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Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein- BIOGRAPHY

Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein's remarkable ability to grasp the very essence of diverse musical styles and the strength, energy and brilliance of her performances have received critical acclaim in the U.S., Europe, Russia, Hong Kong, and China. Reviewers have consistently ranked her among the foremost piano soloists of today.

The New York Times called her New York recital a "radiant success" and went on to say, "she has forceful interpretive ideas and the technique to carry them out." The Washington Post described her as "a contemporary pianist in the best sense of the word, demonstrating enormous strength but little effusiveness."

Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein was born and raised in the former Soviet Union. A child prodigy, she commenced her piano studies at age five and gave her first public recital the following year, including works by Mozart and Beethoven. She was accepted at Leningrad's Special Music School for Gifted Children and completed her undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate studies at the renowned Leningrad Conservatory of Music with the distinguished Professor Nadezhda Golubovskaya. Ms. Zakarian Rutstein went on to become a well-known recitalist and soloist, as well as a Conservatory faculty member. Presently, she is a tenured Professor at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Ms. Zakarian Rutstein's keen musical sensitivity, along with her ability to elucidate even the most difficult works have amazed critics and audiences alike. Commenting on her recording of Rachmaninoff and Scriabin, a reviewer raved about "piano playing of the highest sort; not even Richter or Horowitz excels her in Russian music." Another reviewer wrote of her rendition of a Chopin waltz, "her fingers seemingly took flight over the keyboard, distilling experience into pure sounds, evoking the timeless and absolute"; and regarding a Schubert impromptu, "how poetical, how beautiful, how intensely Schubert!" Describing her performance of Rachmaninoff's Concerto No.2, a critic titled his review: "Rachmaninoff Concerto Glows in Hands of Soloist."

Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein's repertoire encompasses a vast array of compositions, spanning the early 18th to the late 20th centuries. In addition, she has been a pioneer in the complete cycle of J.S. Bach's "The Art of Fuge" which she later recorded on both piano and harpsichord; she also presented the world premiere of an early, unpublished piano concerto by Robert Schumann.

Ms. Zakarian Rutstein's highly acclaimed recordings have been released by Melodia, Orion Master Recordings, Musical Heritage Society, Albany Records, Composer Publishing House and SZR Productions. In 1996, Fanfare magazine declared her recording of Sonata No. 5 by Boris Tishchenko, a prominent contemporary Russian composer, to be one of the top five releases of the year.

Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein-Critical Acclaim

Sedmara (Zakarian) Rutstein Excels at Piano
New York Times

Pianist Sedmara [Zakarian] Rutstein...proved to be a superb master of music as diverse as Bach and Scriabin.
Washington Post

There was an extra edge of pleasure at Sedmara [Zakarian] Rutstein's radiant success at Alice Tully Hall...she played with uncommon clarity and a lovely, melting piano sound...there was temperament more than sufficient.
New York Times

Zakarian [Rutstein] shine in the brilliant, flashy passagework...And she sang the big tunes...with clear and appropriate feeling. She is a strong pianist.
Grand Rapids Press

...Miss [Zakarian] Rutstein not only demonstrated her exceptional technique, but also showed a feeling for phrase and continuity bringing to mind Richter and Gilels.
Musical America

Sedmara Zakarian [Rutstein] gives us a luminous performance of [the Shostakovish Sonata No.2]...[She] brings out every shift in mood with a seemingly effortless insight.
Keyboard

Sedmara Zakarian [Rutstein] captures every nuance...of the defiant brashness of the piano works of Prokofiev's student days.
New York Times

Many who heard...Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein in recital at the Cleveland Museum of Art...seemed greatly impressed with her technique, artistry, and musicality-and rightly so.
The Plain Dealer Cleveland, OH

These two imposing sonatas gain immeasurably from Sedmara Rutstein's bravura playing.

Lehman, American Record Guide

Her [Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein's] playing certainly is assured and idiomatic. Anyone who can make the Slonimsky flow and navigate Tishchenko has my admiration. The latter's second movement has more musical minefields than any mere human should have to encounter.

Paul Rapoport, Fanfare

...I feel he [Tishchenko] is one of the most important of all living composers...This [Sonata No 5] is a difficult work that requires many listenings...It is worth the effort, particularly given pianist Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein sensitive and sometimes heroic rendition of it. Superhuman concentration seems called for here...Rutstein...more than meets the sonata's many challenges...

...since I consider Tishchenko to be one of the world's greatest living composers, and since the work [Sonata No 5] has been exceptionally well recorded and performed, I conclude my [1995] Want List with it...

[Tishchenko's] "style...obviously speaks to both the fingers and the soul of Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein. Throughout the Ninth Sonata...she maintains an absolute clarity of texture...

...when ultra-prestissimo passagework...pops up, Rutstein more than rises to the occasion...

...she totally captures the spirit of both the Tchaikovsky Nocturne and the lush but harmonically arcane Guirlandes, op. 73...

Albany should reissue the three [Tishchenko] sonatas already recorded by Rutstein on a single CD and then get about the business of having her record the rest of them.

Royal S. Brown, Fanfare

Sedmara Zakarian...captures every nuance of this varied collection.

Edward Schneider, New York Times

Zakarian shows both her brilliant technique and her insight in mounting this stunning interpretation.

Frank Retzel, Musical Heritage Review

Semara Zakarian...is excellent...
Paul Turok, Ovation

Sedmara Zakarian gives us a luminous performance...brings out every shift in mood with a seemingly effortless insight.
Jim Alkin, Keyboard

Sedmara Zakarian is a first-class artist...technically impeccable...This is piano playing of the highest sort; not even Richter or Horowitz excels her in this Russian music...Her work...is far superior to that of many of the most highly publicized pianists today.
H. Frank Thornton, The New Records

Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein-

Professional Experience

EDUCATION

Doctor of Music, Piano Performance, Leningrad State Conservatory, Leningrad, USSR

Master of Music, Piano Performance, Teaching, Ensemble, Accompaniment, Leningrad State Conservatory, Leningrad. Graduated with honors.

Special Music School, a branch of Leningrad State Conservatory, Leningrad, USSR

TEACHING

Professor of Piano(tenured), Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, OH, 1976 to present

Visiting Artist and Professor, Simpson College Artist-in-Residence, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, 1974 to 1976

Faculty Member, Leningrad State Conservatory, USSR, 1962 to 1973

Visiting Professor at Shanghai State Conservatory, Shanghai, People's Republic of China (PRC), 1990, 1992 and 1995

Visiting Professor at Central Conservatory, Beijing, PRC, 1992

Faculty Member, International Music Festival, Casalmaggiore, Italy, annually, 1998 to present

Faculty Member, International Festival of Conservatories, 2003 and 2005, State Conservatory of Music, St. Petersburg, Russia

PERFORMANCES

Faculty Recitals: annually at Oberlin Conservatory, both piano and harpsichord.

The World Premier Performance of newly found Robert Schumann's early Piano Concerto in F (1831), at Oberlin Conservatory, March 17, 1992

Public Recitals (partial list)

New York City, Alice Tully Hall

Washington, D.C., Arena Theater

Performing Arts Society of Philadelphia, PA, Mandel Theater (twice)
Chopin Society Festival, Minneapolis, MN
Grand Hall, Grand Rapids, MI
Grand Philharmonic Hall, St. Petersburg, Russia
Hermitage Theater Hall, St. Petersburg, Russia
Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong
Shanghai Center Theater, Shanghai, PRC
Des Moines Arts Center, Des Moines, IA
Art Museum, Cleveland, OH
Severence Hall, Cleveland, OH
Concert Hall, Indianapolis, IN
Omaha Arts Center, Omaha, NE
School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Little Rock Chamber Music Society Series, Little Rock, AR
Maverick Concerts, Woodstock, NY
Concert Series at the University of Texas, Abilene, TX
Concert Series at the University of Oregon, Corvallis, OR
Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, PRC
Yunnan University, Kunming, PRC
Baptists College, Hong Kong
University of Oregon, Portland, OR
Loyola University, New Orleans, LA
University of Charleston, Charleston, WV
Miami University, Oxford, OH
Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH
Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
University of South Dakota, Brookings, SD
Louisiana State University, Lafayette, LA
Casalmaggiore International Music Festival, Italy
St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music
St. Petersburg Philharmonic Society, St. Petersburg, Russia

Public Radio Performances

National Public Radio, Washington, DC
Voice of America, Washington, DC
Leningrad Radio and TV, USSR
St. Petersburg Radio and TV, Russia
National Radio, Paris, France
Hong-Kong Radio
WCLV, Classical Music Radio Station, Cleveland, OH

MASTER CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS (partial list)

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Oregon State University, Portland, OR
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Shanghai State Conservatory of Music, PRC, 1990 and 1992
Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, PRC
Loyola University, New Orleans, LA
St. Petersburg's Conservatory, Russia
Casalmaggiore International Music Festival, Italy

LECTURES: "Piano Technique," "The Art of Pedaling Piano," "Music of Scriabin," and "The Timing as Artistic Means in the Piano Performance," given at various music schools.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Competition Juries (partial list):

International American Scholarship Competition, Cincinnati, OH
International Competition, Midland/Odessa, TX
International Piano Competition, New Orleans, LA
Member of the Screening Committee for R. Cassadesus International Piano Competition, Cleveland, OH

First piano performance of J.S. Bach's complete "The Art of Fugue" in USSR
Piano performance of the same work at Oberlin in October 1985. Work later performed also on harpsichord.

RECORDINGS, PIANO AND HARPSICHORD

15 Solo Albums Released

Melodia Label
Laurel
Orion Master Recordings
Musical Heritage Society
Albany Records
SZR (Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein) Productions (launched in 1991)

REVIEWS (Partial List)

The New York Times; Washington Post; Musical America; New Records; Ovation; Fanfare; Inquirer and Mirror, MA; World-Herald, Omaha, NE; Philadelphia Musical World and Times; Niagara Gazette; Audience, Grand Rapids, MI; The Grand Rapids Press; The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, OH; Musical Heritage Review; Buffalo News; Leningradskaya Pravda, Leningrad, USSR; Smena, St. Petersburg, Russia

Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein- Discography

Musical Heritage Society

#4542 **A. Scriabin**: Sonata No. 9 Op. 68, Sonata No. 10 Op. 70; **S. Prokofiev**: Romeo and Juliet Op. 75

#4701A **S. Prokofiev**: Visions Fugitives Op. 22, Pensees Op. 62, Sarcasms Op. 17

#7408z **A. Scriabin**: Sonata No. 3 in F sharp minor Op. 23, Four Pieces Op.51, Danse languide, Etudes Op. 65 Nos. 2 and 3, Deux danses Op. 73: Guirlandes, Flammes sombres

Albany Records

Troy 096 **Aliosha Nikolaev**: Fairy Tale “The Snake Princess”, Cat’s Hut Suite; **Boris Tishchenko**: Sonata No 7 for Piano with Bells Op. 85 in C Major

Troy 135 **Sergei Slonimsky**: Sonata for Piano, 1963; **Boris Tishchenko**: Sonata for Piano No 5 Op. 56

Troy 279 **Boris Tishchenko**: Sonata for Piano No 9 Op. 114, Nocturne-Adagio, Pastoralle-Andante, Barcarolla-Allegro Molto; **Peter Tchaikovksy**: Nocturne Op. 19 No 4, Valse Op. 40 No 9; **Sergei Slonimsky**: A Passing Beauty

(Comic scene after Picasso’s drawing, from “Choreographic Miniatures” piano suite)

Alexander Scriabin: Preludes Op. 22 No 1 Andante, No 2 Andante, No 3 Allegretto, No 4 Andantino, Two Pieces Op. 73 No 1 Garlands, No 2 The Dark Flame, Sonata for Piano Op. 30 in F# Major (Andante, Prestissimo Volando)

Orion Master Recording

#82429 **Shostakovich** Sonata No.2 Op. 61; Scriabin: Four Preludes Op. 22, Etude Op. 8 No. 2 and No. 10; Nocturne for Left Hand Op. 9, Sonata No. 4 in F# Major Op. 30

Melodia Recording, St. Petersburg, Russia

Works of Maikopar

Compositor Publishing House, St. Petersburg, Russia

Slonimsky 24 Preludes and Fugues, Two Discs

SZR Productions, Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein Records

ZD-010 My Favorite Music **V. Beethoven** Rondo in C-Major Op. 57 #1; **C. Debussy** L'Isle Joyeuse; **F. Chopin** Ballade #4 in F-Minor Op. 52; **S. Rachmaninov** Preludes Op. 23 No's 3 & 7, Op. 32 No's 5 & 12; **A. Scriabin** Sonata No. 5 Op. 53 in F# Major

ZD-012 J.S. BACH ON HARPSICHORD

SIDE 1 **J. S. Bach**: The Art of Fugue- Fugue No's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9

SIDE 2 **J. S. Bach**: The Art of Fugue-Fugue No's 10, 13a, 13b & 14
Chromatic Fantasy & Fugue in D-minor, BWV903

ZD-014 GREAT MUSIC IN LIVE PERFORMANCE

Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein, Piano
Robert Spano, Conductor
Chamber Soloists of Oberlin

SIDE 1 **W. A. Mozart**: Piano Concerto #21, in C-major, K-467(Allegro Maestoso, Andante, Allegro)

SIDE 2 **W. A. Mozart**: Piano Concerto #24 in C-minor, K-491(Allegro, Larghetto, Allegretto)

ZD-016 **C. Debussy** 12 Preludes, Pour Le Piano Suite

ZD-020 **M. Ravel** La Valse, arranged by Sedmara Zakarian Rutstein

