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Stephanie Chase

Violin Soloist



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Biography

“One of the most respected classical violinists in the world” (*Woman Around Town*), Stephanie Chase is in demand as soloist with eminent orchestras that have included the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, and London Symphony Orchestra, in performances acclaimed for their “elegance, dexterity, rhythmic vitality and great imagination” (*Boston Globe*) as well as “stunning power” (*Louisville Courier-Journal*), “matchless technique and flawless intonation” (*BBC Music Magazine*). Most recently, her performance of Elgar's *Violin Concerto* with the Louisville Orchestra was selected as a “Classical Act of the Decade” (December 2009), and the *New York Times* noted that “the fine violinist Stephanie Chase was an elegant soloist” with the American Classical Orchestra (November 2009).

Stephanie Chase is a top medalist of the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. Her latest appearance at Carnegie Hall was in May, 2008 as soloist in Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*.

Recognized as “one of the violin greats of our era” (*Newhouse News*) and equally at home in the virtuoso's repertoire, historically-informed performance practice, and contemporary music, Ms. Chase offers “refreshingly stylish” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*) interpretations of an attractive and diverse repertoire of over sixty concerti and major works for violin and orchestra, including concerti by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Ellen Zwilich. She is also a gifted music arranger whose “A Capricious CHASE” - her new version of Paganini's *Caprice No. 24* for violin and orchestra, into which she inserts the musical spelling of her name (C-H-A-S-E) - is a guaranteed hit with audiences.

Renowned for her “rich, passionate tone, dead-true intonation throughout, and virtuosity galore” (*Gramophone*), Stephanie Chase has concertized in twenty-five countries, including an historic tour of the People's Republic of China as soloist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic on its first ever trip to the PRC.

Recordings by Ms. Chase have been awarded the highest possible ratings by *Cambridge University Press* and *BBC Music Magazine*, featured by *Classic CD* as “Record of the Month,” and selected by *Stereophile* as “A Record to Die For.” In its review of her recent recording of music by Rudolf Friml, *Strings Magazine* praised “Chase's technical control, beautiful sound, rhythmic flexibility, unerring taste, and natural stylistic affinity.”

Born in Illinois, Stephanie Chase is the daughter of two musicians, the noted arranger and composer Bruce Chase and violinist Fannie (Paschell) Chase. She made her first public appearance at the age of two years; by the time she was seven years old she was nationally recognized as a child prodigy through appearances on television and performances in the Chicago area. Her debut with the Chicago Symphony followed her first prize win, at age nine, in its Youth Competition. That same year she was featured on WGN's “Artist's Showcase,” in a program that was awarded the illustrious George Foster Peabody Award for excellence in television broadcasting. Further studies with Sally Thomas of the Juilliard School ensued and, following two appearances at age thirteen on Sir David Frost's television interview program, Ms. Chase embarked on a major concert career, touring as a teenager across the United States and Canada and appearing as soloist with orchestras that included the Chicago, St. Louis, National and American Symphony Orchestras. Her Carnegie Hall debut was at age eighteen, in which she appeared as soloist with the National Orchestral Association with the eminent conductor-educator Leon Barzin.

Ms. Chase furthered her artistry with the legendary Belgian violinist Arthur Grumiaux, who remained her mentor until his death. She also studied chamber music at the renowned Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont with many of the 20th-century greatest musicians, including Rudolf Serkin, Felix Galimir, Misha Schneider, Rudolf Firkusny and Marcel Moyse.

Stephanie Chase is frequently the subject of profiles in newspapers and journals, most recently including *The Epoch Times* (October 14, 2009) and *Woman Around Town* (November 16, 2009).

Critical Acclaim

“Stephanie Chase delivers, with the Louisville Orchestra, a sensational account of Edward Elgar's Violin Concerto. The Elgar is among a handful of the most demanding works in the standard concerto repertoire, and Chase's account takes a challenge and turns it into a privilege” – *Courier-Journal*, December 2009

“The fine violinist Stephanie Chase was an elegant soloist” – *New York Times*, November 2009

“One of the most respected classical violinists in the world” – *Woman Around Town*, November 2009

“Stephanie Chase has a great sense of style, matchless technique and flawless intonation” – *BBC Music Magazine*

“One of the violin greats of our era....A supreme musical performer whose complete virtuosity enables her to ennoble everything she plays” – Byron Belt, *Newhouse Newspapers*

“...a deeply poetic account of the (Sibelius) Concerto by Stephanie Chase, (who) poured out the impassioned northern lyricism on a spacious scale, holding enough throbbing tone and gutsy bravura in reserve for the extroverted passages” – *Chicago Tribune*

“Stephanie Chase is making her name on sheer artistry ... (no violinist) plays more truly or musically than Chase” – *San Francisco Chronicle*

“Rich, passionate tone, dead-true intonation throughout, and virtuosity galore” – *Gramophone*

“The soloist was the superb violinist Stephanie Chase, who played with elegance, dexterity, rhythmic vitality and great imagination. This was a Classical performance in the best sense: clear-headed, straightforward, intelligent” – *Boston Globe*

“...one of the twenty most outstanding performances in the (Beethoven Violin Concerto's) recording history” – ‘Beethoven: Violin Concerto,’ *Cambridge University Press*

“The American violinist conquered the work's many technical hurdles as authoritatively as she illuminated its generous lyric outpourings” – *Los Angeles Times*

“She played always with firm control, a fine sense of the music's subtle shadings and above all the vigor and the large gestures it often demands” – *Washington Post*

“Chase's interpretation of Beethoven's Violin Concerto was one of the best I have ever heard, live or recorded. ..She is like a great actress, with such presence that by speaking softly, she can make the audience hang on every syllable...The cadenzas were simply stupendous, both in composition and execution” – *Portland Press Herald*

“Stephanie Chase played with fire, sensitivity, impeccable intonation, and a wonderfully steady and flexible bow arm that made the violin part sound like a vocal line” – *Boston Globe*

“These performances are greatly helped by Chase's technical control, beautiful sound, rhythmic flexibility, unerring taste, and natural stylistic affinity” – *Strings Magazine*

“Exceptional security of technique and bow control, married to a supreme inner radiance” – *Performance Today*, National Public Radio

Repertoire

SAMUEL BARBER

Concerto, Opus 14

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Concerto, Opus 61 (cadenzas by Stephanie Chase); Concerto for piano, violin, and 'cello, Opus 56;

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Serenade for Violin, Harp, Strings and Percussion

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Concerto in D Major, Opus 77; Double Concerto for violin and 'cello, Opus 102

MAX BRUCH

Concerto in D Minor, Opus 26; Concerto in G Minor, Opus 44; "Scottish Fantasy," Opus 46

MARIO CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO

Concerto No. 2, "I Profeti"

ANTONIN DVORAK

Concerto, Opus 53

EDWARD ELGAR

Concerto, Opus 61

ALEXANDER GLAZUNOV

Concerto, Opus 82

ARAM KHACHATURIAN

Concerto

ERICH KORNGOLD

Concerto, Opus 35

EDUARD LALO

Symphonie Espagnole, Opus 21

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Concerto in E Minor; Concerto in D Minor (1822)

WOLFGANG MOZART

Concerti KV 211, KV 216, KV 218, KV 219 (cadenzas by Stephanie Chase); Sinfonia Concertante KV 364

NICOLÒ PAGANINI

Concerto in D Major, Opus 6; Concerto in B Minor, Opus 7, "A Capricious CHASE" (arr. Stephanie Chase)

PAGANINI-KREISLER

Concerto in D Major

SERGEI PROKOFIEV

Concerto No. 1 in D Major, Opus 19; Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Opus 63

PABLO DE SARASATE

Carmen Fantasy, Zigeunerweisen, other works

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH

Concerto No. 1, Opus 99

JEAN SIBELIUS

Concerto, Opus 47

IGOR STRAVINSKY

Concerto in D Major

KARL SZYMANOWSKI

Concerto No. 1, Opus 35

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Concerto in D Major, Opus 35

ANTONIO VIVALDI

The Four Seasons; Assorted Concerti

WILLIAM WALTON

Violin Concerto

Program Suggestions

- With Orchestra -

“Divas on Stage”

Violin Concerto (1998) - ELLEN TAAFE ZWILICH
Tzigane – MAURICE RAVEL

Notes: Ellen Zwilich is a Pulitzer Prize winner in music. Ravel’s virtuosic *Tzigane* celebrates the gypsy violinist and was dedicated to the renowned Hungarian violin virtuosa Jelly d’Aranyi.

“A Salute to Hollywood”

Violin Concerto – ERICH KORNGOLD
- or -
Violin Concerto No. 2 (*The Prophets*) – MARIO CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO
Schindler’s List – John Williams

“Romantic Inspirations”

Violin Concerto – EDWARD ELGAR

“CLASSICAL ACT OF THE DECADE - Stephanie Chase delivers, with the Louisville Orchestra, a sensational account of Edward Elgar's Violin Concerto. The Elgar is among a handful of the most demanding works in the standard concerto repertoire, and Chase's account takes a challenge and turns it into a privilege.”

- Andrew Adler, *Courier-Journal*, December 27, 2009

“The Virtuosa Violinist”

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso – CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS
Tzigane – MAURICE RAVEL or Zigeunerweisen – PABLO DE SARASATE
A Capricious CHASE – NICOLO PAGANINI (arr. for violin and orchestra by Stephanie Chase)

“Stephanie Chase plays the bejabbbers out of Zigeunerweisen.” – Classical Net Review, December 1, 2009

- Solo Violin Recital -

“I Follow My Muse!”

Sonata in C Major, BWV 1005 (ca. 1720) – J.S. BACH
Sonata for violin solo (1944) – BELA BARTÓK
Sonata for violin solo, Op. 27, No. 5 (ca. 1924) – EUGÈNE YSAÏE
Five Caprices (1980) – EARL KIM
Caprice, Op. 1, No. 24 (ca. 1809) – NICOLO PAGANINI

Stephanie Chase also offers recital programs in collaboration with pianist Sara Davis Buechner.