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Belsky/Maxwell Piano Duo



www.svetlanabelsky.com/pianoduo

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Belksy/Maxwell Piano Duo – BIOGRAPHY

The Belsky-Maxwell Duo began in 2005, when these colleagues and friends discovered – quite by accident – how remarkably well matched they are at the keyboard. Their artistic partnership commenced conspicuously with a standing-room-only performance of Mozart’s glorious Concerto in E-flat Major for Two Pianos with the University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra in January 2006, in celebration of Mozart’s 250th birthday. Since then, the two pianists have been presenting duo concerts throughout the Midwest, playing repertoire ranging from the great masters to newly commissioned works, earning a reputation as a unique and exciting new ensemble with particular audience rapport.

Recent and upcoming performances include Live From WFMT of Chicago’s Classical 98.7 FM Radio, the prestigious **Music in the Loft Series** (famed for hosting the region’s most promising young artists), the Mostly Music Series of Northeastern Illinois University, the annual Music Institute of Chicago Duo Piano Festival, the Southern Illinois Music Festival, the PianoForte Great Pianists Series, Schubertiade Chicago, and CUBE Chicago Contemporary Music Ensemble; concerto appearances with the Southern Illinois Symphony under the baton of Maestro Edward Benyas; and recital and master class engagements as **featured artists at the Illinois State Music Teachers Association Convention**, the University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, Wheaton College, Winona State University, Illinois Central College, Cardinal Stritch University, Moody Bible Institute, Western Illinois University, and many more. The highlight of 2010 will be the Belsky-Maxwell Duo’s **official debut in Carnegie Hall**, followed by other New York performances. Concerts in the Boston area will begin in 2011.

The Duo’s recent CD, including the Rachmaninoff Suite, Op. 11, Stravinsky’s *Three Movements from Petrouchka*, and William White’s brand-new *Desiderata*, written especially for Belsky and Maxwell, is available on www.CDBaby.com. Praised for “how artistically attuned they were to each other . . . they simultaneously moved from the serene to the staccato, from the merely fast to the positively furious, always at precisely the same time” (*Hyde Park Herald*), **Belsky and Maxwell invite audiences to see – and hear – what two women can do with one piano.**

Svetlana Belsky - BIOGRAPHY

Svetlana Belsky is the Coordinator of Piano Studies at the University of Chicago Department of Music. Born in Kiev, Belsky grew up in Chicago, studying with Emilio Del Rosario. She holds both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Ann Schein, a student of Arthur Rubinstein. She earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at the Manhattan School of Music under Nina Svetlanova, an heir to the tradition of Heinrich Neuhaus. Among her honors are prizes in the Frinna Awerbuch and the AMSA World Piano Competitions. An active recitalist and chamber performer, Belsky also serves as an adjudicator at piano competitions and writes and lectures on various musical topics. Her doctoral dissertation, an annotated translation of *Busoni as a Pianist* by Russian musicologist Grigori Kogan, was published by the University of Rochester Press.



Jennifer Maxwell - BIOGRAPHY

Jennifer Maxwell is currently working on a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at Boston University, where she is a student of Anthony di Bonaventura. Maxwell received a Master of Music degree at the University of Louisville School of Music in the studio of Artist-in-Residence Lee Luvisi, who studied with Rudolf Serkin and Mieczyslaw Horszowski. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Iowa School of Music, where she was a student of Daniel Shapiro, himself a student of Leon Fleischer. Formerly with the University of Chicago Department of Music, Maxwell also worked for the Louisville Orchestra, was Artist/Coordinator of the Kentucky Center's ArtsReach Louisville Piano Program, and taught piano at the University of Louisville. An avid performer and educator, she is active as an adjudicator and clinician as well as a private instructor.

Belsky/Maxwell Piano Duo – CRITICAL ACCLAIM

...artistically attuned...

“Unquestionably, the big moment of the afternoon was Schubert’s “Fantasy in F Minor. It was here that these two women... showed how artistically attuned they were to each other. They simultaneously moved from the serene to the staccato, from the merely fast to the positively furious, always at precisely the same time....”

-M. L. Rantala, Classical Music Critic, Hyde Park Herald

...exquisite...

“Thank you so much for sharing your exquisite craft with our audience.”

-Ursula Furrer, Board Member, PianoForte Foundation

...simply divine...

“...a simply divine performance...”

-Jessica Sandy, Music Contributor, Chicago Maroon

...superhuman...

“The Belsky-Maxwell Duo is superhuman in coordination and human in delivery. They embody the fascination of four hands, twenty fingers at the piano.”

-Ilya Levinson, Director, University of Chicago Noontime Concert Series

...a true musical event...

“Your concert drew nothing but praise from our audience... Your Mozart concerto was stunning... As always it is a true musical event when we have you at our concert series.”

-Steve Gianni, Program Director, Northbrook Fine Arts Series

“Were you there?”

“People are stopping each other and asking, ‘Were you there?’ And if the answer is ‘No,’ then the person gets a large dose of pity. Truly your concert was a momentous occasion for all!”

-Marjorie Benson

Belsky/Maxwell Piano Duo – DISCOGRAPHY

The Belsky/Maxwell piano duo plays Stravinsky, Rachmaninoff and White

This CD contains the gorgeous Rachmaninoff Suite, Op. 11, full of lush Romantic harmonies; Stravinsky's ultra-virtuosic Three Movements from Petrouchka, in a special arrangement by the performers; and William White's brand-new Desiderata, a grooving smash hit written especially for Belsky and Maxwell. Hear selections from this CD on CDBaby.com



The Belsky/Maxwell piano duo plays Schubert, Debussy and Barber

The Belsky/Maxwell duo Live in Concert, performing works for piano 4-hands and two pianos, including the most beautiful work ever written for two performers on one piano, Schubert's sublime Fantasy in F Minor, the rollicking *Souvenirs* by Barber and Debussy's own two-piano transcription of his *Afternoon of a Fawn*.

Mozart Concerto for Two Pianos with the University of Chicago Orchestra

The glorious Two Piano Concerto live in concert celebrating Mozart's 250 Birthday!

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