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## Elizabeth Wolff, Pianist



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## Biography

Pianist Elizabeth Wolff has developed a large following both as a chamber musician and as a soloist. She has collaborated with such noted string quartets as the Shanghai, the Brunswick, the Rosamonde, and the Zapolski, and has participated in music festivals including Music Mountain, Aspen, Music at La Gesse, Mohonk, The Beethoven Festival, and the Festival de Musique en Lorraine. Founder and Director of Music at Lake Willoughby, Ms. Wolff has also been on chamber music faculties of Summertrios and Music Mountain. Currently, she is Co-Director of Chamber Music Retreats at Vassar.

Ms. Wolff is recipient of numerous awards and sponsorships including the Pro Musicis Foundation's International Award ([www.promusicis.org](http://www.promusicis.org)), The Belsky Music Award, a Music at La Gesse Fellowship, and The Jerome Foundation debut recording grant. In New York, she was presented as recitalist on The Distinguished Artist Series at The Tisch Center of the 92nd Street 'Y', by Pro Musicis at Merkin Concert Hall and Florence Gould Hall, by The Metropolitan Museum of Art for their instrument collection, and at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. As well, she has been featured pianist in live radio broadcasts on WQXR, WNCN and WNYC. Other United States solo concert performances include The Phillips Collection in Washington DC, The Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts in Chicago, The Schubert Club in St. Paul, and numerous Pro Musicis sponsored national recital tours. Miss Wolff's appearance at London's Purcell Room received rave critical acclaim and was followed with highly successful tours of Austria, Holland and France. She was invited back to Vienna to perform works of Brahms in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his death. Ms. Wolff's affinity for and love of the piano works of Rachmaninoff have garnered special notice. She was guest soloist on WQXR's "Russian Nights" special broadcast, and she has conducted master classes as well as performed in recital at the renowned Rachmaninoff Institute in Tambov, Russia. In 2005, her article on Brahms' evolving use of three was published for the Institute's International Science Conference. In addition, Ms. Wolff has performed for the International Conference of the Rachmaninoff Society in London and Vienna. Of her recording of the Six Moments Musicaux, Opus 16, American Record Guide noted, "I have never heard anything quite like the enchanting soft playing in No. 5, and No. 6 is a remarkable performance...a stimulating and musical pianist." This disc, which also features a premiere recording of the two sets of Moments Musicaux (Opus 7 and 84) by Moritz Moszkowski, is currently available at [www.magnatune.com/artists/wolff](http://www.magnatune.com/artists/wolff).

Elizabeth Wolff's commitment to teaching is demonstrated through the broad range of her educational activities. She was seen on CBS '60 Minutes' in a segment featuring her student, the prodigious young composer Jay Greenberg. As well, she has been on faculties and given master classes for numerous colleges, including Hunter College, SUNY at Purchase and New York University and has presented for The College Music Society, the World Piano Pedagogy Conference ([www.pianovision.com](http://www.pianovision.com)) and for The Piano Teachers Congress of New York. She continues to coach chamber music in affiliation with Chamber Music Associates, as well as maintain a diverse class of individual students. Her lecture/recital series entitled Minding the Score has been amplified and enlarged to include Access To Music whose intention is to introduce works by contemporary composers while simultaneously providing more visibility and viability for the solo recital. Ms. Wolff received a Bachelor of Music degree from

Northwestern University and a Master of Science degree from The Juilliard School where she was a scholarship student of Rosina Lhevinne. Other teachers include Seymour Bernstein, Jeaneane Dowis, and Benjamin Kaplan.

## Critical Acclaim

The New York Times

"Elizabeth Wolff's evening of Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Schubert at the 92nd Street Y introduced a pianistic personality that went beyond the ordinary. Miss Wolff knows how to find the dominant strand in the densest of musical fabrics and direct our attention to it."

The New York Times

"It was a serious, substantial program---Beethoven sonatas early and late, the Schubert A-minor Sonata (D. 845) and Andrzej Panufnik's "Pentasonata" [US Premiere]. For all her pieces, Ms. Wolff had a sympathetic comprehension."

The Times, London

"Extreme contrasts of tempo in Beethoven's E Flat Sonata, Op. 27, No. 1, at once revealed her liking for extracting the last ounce of character from everything, and there was yet more highly urgent motivation behind Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy, its fugal finale swept along like a whirlwind after the deeply experienced, delicately embroidered calm of the Adagio."

The Daily Telegraph, London

"Rhythmically strong and lyrical as well, the American pianist Elizabeth Wolff brought a wealth of colour to each work on her wide ranging programme in a debut recital at the Purcell Room."

Het Vaderland, The Hague

"Rosina Lhevinne would have become as famous as she has been for ages simply by teaching Elizabeth Wolff."

Los Angeles Times

"Miss Wolff has considerable pianistic achievement to display- strength, stamina, fluency, contained temperament, an affinity for songfulness and for the grand line of a work."

The Boston Globe

"This recital showed that she is a capable, musicianly performer who doesn't balk at difficult tasks, even so imposing a one as the Opus 33 Etudes-Tableaux of Rachmaninoff...Her musical understanding brought out the very best that was composed in the music."

St. Paul Pioneer Press

"Miss Wolff's clear revelation of everything in the score testified to fine qualities of musical mind."

Litchfield County Times

"She communicated a thorough knowledge of the compositional structure of the pieces she plays, demonstrated that at every moment she knows where she is going, and gave the audience an intimate experience of the magic that can happen when technique is flawless and the bond between music and musician is true."

The News-Times, Danbury

"A formidable technician, Wolff's playing was full-toned and whole-souled."

The Spectator, Rutherford

"Miss Wolff not only proved her impressive technical prowess, but brought to the Liszt Sonata a sensitivity and thematic clarity that resulted in a moving and convincing performance."

American Record Guide

"Judging from her performance of the Six Moments Musicaux of Rachmaninoff, Elizabeth Wolff is a stimulating and musical pianist...I have never heard anything quite like the enchanting soft playing in No. 5, and No. 6 is a remarkable performance. Though extremely difficult, Wolff goes one step beyond in her passionate rendition."

## Discography

Miss Wolff's affinity for and love of the piano works of Rachmaninoff have garnered special notice. She was featured as guest soloist on New York's WQXR's "Russian Nights" special broadcast, and has concertized and conducted master classes at the renowned Rachmaninoff Institute in Tambov, Russia. She has also given recitals for the International Conference of the Rachmaninoff Society in London and Vienna as well as has reviewed new CD releases for their publication. Of Miss Wolff's own recording of the *Six Moments Musicaux*, Opus 16, American Record Guide noted, "I have never heard anything quite like the enchanting soft playing in No. 5, and No. 6 is a remarkable performance...a stimulating and musical pianist." This disc also features a premiere recording of both sets of *Moments Musicaux* (Opus 7 and 84) by Moritz Moszkowski. It is available at: <http://magnatune.com/artists/wolff>.

