

Carolyn Enger P I A N I S T

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PRESS KIT



Pianist Carolyn Enger has gained critical acclaim for her lyrical and dynamic playing, her deeply felt interpretations of works from Beethoven and Schubert to contemporary music, and her warm personal approach. In addition to an active performance schedule, Ms. Enger has enjoyed remarkable success as a recording artist, particularly with her 2013 release of piano music by Ned Rorem on Naxos Records. Renowned critic Laurence Vittes wrote in his review for *Gramophone* (2/2014): “Enger raises the miniatures to a higher level by taking the time and care to capture the emotional impact each must have had when their dedicatees read their inscription and title, and then heard the music for the first time.” The album was selected by Anthony Tommasini as one of the “Best in Classical Recordings” of 2013 in *The New York Times*.

Recent highlights include a performance at Michaelis Kirche in Erfurt, Germany; a Chicago residency with recitals at several Steinway Galleries, the Chicago Public Library, the Chicago Theological Seminary, the PianoForte Foundation and a Masterclass broadcast on WFMT; performances at the National Gallery of Art in Oslo, Norway; the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County in New Jersey; the Chelmsford Center for the Arts in Massachusetts; the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts; The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.; and a variety of recitals in the Tri-State area.

With a keen sense of history and identity, Ms. Enger views music in the context of the unfolding of human affairs, past and present, leading her to design programs that relate the music she performs to the times in which it was composed. Currently these interests have stirred Ms. Enger to plan a multimedia concert program, *The Mischlinge Exposé*, set in the World War II period, combining music, literature and images that focus on the haunting memories of the lives of *Mischlinge* – half-Jews – in Germany before, during, and after the Holocaust, an experience reflected in Ms. Enger’s own family history. Ms. Enger will present her ambitious *The Mischlinge Exposé* throughout New York, New Jersey, Iowa, Texas, Arizona, Illinois, and Massachusetts and has commissioned and premiered a new work written by the acclaimed composer Bruce Adolphé especially for this project.

An active recitalist with engagements throughout the United States and beyond, Ms. Enger has performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center’s Bruno Walter Auditorium, Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, The National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Design Museum, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Nantucket Musical Arts Society, The Kosciuszko Foundation, and the Tenri Cultural Institute. A recent collaboration with renowned illustrator and writer Maira Kalman featured Ms. Enger’s playing as part of “Maira Kalman Selects”, an exhibition curated by Ms. Kalman at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York. Ms. Enger’s dedication to bringing music to new audiences has motivated her to perform in accessible civic spaces such as Israel’s Bet Yad Lebanim in Nahariya, the Felicja Blumental Music Center in Tel Aviv and, in New York City, at St. Peter’s Church and the Donnell Library Center. Ms. Enger’s community engagement performances have left presenters and audiences, in the words of Cheryl Wylene, Program Director, of the *Backstage at the Y* Concert Series, “in complete awe of her passion, skill and genuine warmth.”

Ms. Enger has a special gift for creating original and intriguing programs that range from European masterworks to fresh discoveries among the compositions of such innovative American and Israeli composers as Ned Rorem, Lowell Liebermann, Betty Olivero, Avner Dorman, Lior Navok, John Adams, John Luther Adams, Nico Muhly, Caroline Shaw, Arvo Pärt, and Sean Hickey. Her debut album, *In Evening Air*, released in 2009, offers a refreshing mix of music by Beethoven, Scriabin, Hanson, Copland, Liebermann and Ned Rorem – all attesting to her command of a wide variety of musical idioms. *MusicWeb International* lauded her playing as “thoughtful and sensitive... expressive... She plays with fine nuance and tone shading.” And from *Fanfare* came praise for “Enger’s dynamic control and emotional sensitivity, her keen sense of timing and proportion.”

Ms. Enger is a Steinway Concert Artist.

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Reviews

"Thank you for the wonderful performance of my music."

Ned Rorem
Composer

"This year the classical music critics of The New York Times had plenty of options when selecting their favorite recordings of 2013...." Among the 90th Birthday tributes this year to the essential American composer Ned Rorem, this recording especially stands out. The fine pianist Carolyn Enger plays Mr. Rorem's complete Piano Album I, a collection of tender yet pungent miniatures written for friends, intimates and personal occasions from 1978-2001."

Anthony Tommasini
Chief Music Critic of *The New York Times*

"Piano Album I may be found on the Naxos label performed by pianist Carolyn Enger. She displays lovely control of these delicate sonorities, with careful attention to balance and registration. Her touch is gentle but penetrating, reaching down into the sound, and her rhythmic sense is spot on for this delicate music, as she is often behind the beat- a little lazy and droll, with rubato just right. This music doesn't tell how virtuosic she is, as it rarely requires that kind of kinetic demonstration, but it does show that she has a huge heart and exquisite taste."

Daniel Asia
The Huffington Post, 5/27/2016

"She is a musician of rare quality, whose pianistic sensitivity is at once in evidence."

Avron Coleman
Cellist, NY Philharmonic

"Lavishing tone and sensitive, nuanced, thoughtful unhurried timeless playing."

Robert Schulslaper
Fanfare Magazine Review of "In Evening Air" CD

"Some discs are just needed...expressively played set of piano miniatures...from the first note it creates an intimate evening mood...her playing is thoughtful and sensitive... expressive, yet without external pressure: the expressivity comes from the music itself; the pianist only opens the doors to let it out...She plays with fine nuance and tone-shading... World Premiere recording of the Rorem set and the presentation is faultless...Enger's playing reminded me of Mitsuko Uchida...it applies that same level of concentrated attention to each single note and demonstrates admiration for each precious sound, unhurried, timeless...This disc has already magically transformed my evenings...Absolute pleasure."

Oleg Ledienov,
Music Web International Review of "In Evening Air"

"Impeccable sense of timing...Clear tone and graceful naivety...Enger can be commended for her taste in music...There is much novelty to delight in..."

American Record Guide
Review of "In Evening Air"

"In complete awe of her passion, skill and genuine warmth."

Cheryl Wyles
Director, Backstage at the Y

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Resumé

SOLO RECITALS

Weill Recital Hall at *Carnegie Hall*
National Gallery of Art
Bruno Walter Auditorium of the New York Public Library
The National Gallery — Oslo
Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts
Kosciuszko Foundation
The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine
Tenri Cultural Institute
University of Chicago, Fulton Recital Hall
Spectrum - NYC
Felicja Blumental Music Centre – Tel-Aviv
Steinway Hall
Nantucket Musical Arts Society
The Nicholas Roerich Museum
St. Peter's Church at Citicorp Center
Puffin Cultural Forum
PianoForte Studios, Chicago
Chelmsford Center for the Arts
Highfield Hall
Michaelis Kirche, Erfurt, Germany

RECORDINGS

Carolyn Enger. *Ned Rorem: A Piano Album*. Naxos Records, American Classics 2013, Named one of *The New York Times* "Best in Classical Recordings for 2013"
Carolyn Enger. *In Evening Air – The Art of the Bagatelle*, Music of Beethoven, Scriabin, Hanson, Copland, Rorem and Liebermann. 2009.

PROJECTS

The Mischlinge Exposé: Multimedia Concert
Program about WW II: *Combining music, literature, and images, centering on the lives of Mischlinge –Half-Jews, in Germany, before, during and after the Holocaust*
Performances at the Cooper Hewitt Museum
as part of the Maira Kalman Selects Gallery

EDUCATION

Manhattan School of Music Graduate Studies
Molloy College - Bachelor of Arts

MAJOR TEACHERS

Dr. Marc Silverman
Robert McDonald
Freda Rosenblatt
Arkady Aronov
Peter Vinograd

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PIANIST

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Sample Programs

The Mischlinge Exposé

- Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) – Three Songs without Words
Alexander Zemlinsky (1871-1942) – Albumblatt “Erinnerungen aus Wien”
Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951) – Sechs kleine Klavierstücke, Op. 19
Hanns Eisler (1898-1962) – Sonatine, Op. 44 “Gradus ad Parnassum”
Lior Navok (b. 1971) – *The Old Photo Box*
Daniel Asia (b. 1953) – *Why (?) Jacob*
Paul Ben-Haim (1897-1984) – Five Pieces for Piano, Op. 34
Bruce Adolphe (b. 1955) – *Four Meditations on the Crisis of Mischling Identity*

Lyricism Then & Now

- Franz Schubert (1797-1828) – Impromptu in A-Flat Major, Op. 142, No. 2
Aaron Copland (1900-1990) – *Piano Miniatures*
Ned Rorem (b. 1923) – Piano Album I
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) – Selected *Anniversaries*
Aaron Copland (1900-1990) – Our Town: Three Piano Excerpts
Franz Schubert (1797-1828) – Drei Klavierstücke, D. 946

Masters of Transcendence

- Franz Schubert (1797-1828) – Sonata in B flat major, Op. posth. D, 960
Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951) – Sechs Kleine Klavierstücke, Op. 19
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) – Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-Flat Major, Op. 110

Resonances

- Arvo Pärt (b. 1935) – *Variationen zur Gesundung von Arinuschka*
Arvo Pärt (b. 1935) – *Für Alina - Für Anna Maria*
Pia Møller-Johansen (b. 1988) – *Lamarque's Death*
Pia Møller-Johansen (b. 1988) – *Himmelfall*
Erik Satie (1866-1925) – *Gymnopedies*
John Luther Adams (b. 1953) – *Nunataks (Solitary Peaks)*
Nico Muhly (b. 1981) – *A Hudson Cycle*
Sean Hickey (b. 1970) – *The Birds of Barclay Street*
Wolfgang Rihm (b. 1952) – *Auf einem anderen Blatt*
Caroline Shaw (b. 1982) – *Gustave Le Gray*

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Sample Programs, cont.

All-American Miniatures

These intimate masterpieces written by Bernstein, Ned Rorem and Aaron Copland for friends and family bring the audience deep into the composers' inner lives and overlapping social circles.

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) - Down a Country Lane
Midsummer Nocturne
The Young Pioneers
Midday Thoughts
In Evening Air
Sunday Afternoon Music

Ned Rorem (b. 1923) - Complete Piano Album I

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) - Selected Anniversaries:
For Aaron Copland
For Shirley Gabis Rhoads Perle
For Stephen Sondheim
In Memoriam: Helen Coates
In Memoriam: Goddard Lieberson
For Susanna Kyle

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) - Our Town

Romantic Titles

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) – Impromptu in A-Flat Major, Op. 142, No. 2

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) – **Drei Klavierstücke, D. 946**
No. 1 in E-flat Minor - Allegro assai
No. 2 in E-flat Major - Allegretto
No. 3 in C Major - Allegro

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) – **Three Songs without Words**
Op. 19, No. 6 "Venetianisches Gondellied"
Op. 30, No. 6 "Venetianisches Gondellied"
Op. 19, No. 1

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) – **Piano Sonata No. 31 in A-Flat Major, Op. 110**
I. Moderato cantabile molto espressivo
II. Allegro molto
III. Adagio ma non troppo
Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo

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References

Available upon Request

Marc Silverman

Piano Department Chairman
Manhattan School of Music, NY

John Blanchard

Director of Alumni Engagement and Advancement
Manhattan School of Music, NY

Nancy Shear

President - Nancy Shear Arts Services
NYC

Glenn Cornett

Owner and Director – Spectrum NYC
NYC

Daniel Crozier

Nantucket Musical Arts Society
Nantucket, MA

Josephine Hemsing

Hemsing Associates
NYC

Avron Coleman

Cellist - New York Philharmonic
NYC

Carson Cooman

Composer and Organist, Producer
Cambridge, MA