

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

LOMAZOV/RACKERS PIANO DUO

with

MARINA LOMAZOV, PIANO

JOSEPH RACKERS, PIANO

Friday, October 16, 2020
Kilbourn Hall (livestream)
7:30 PM

The Faculty Artist Series is generously supported by Patricia Ward-Baker.



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

**Sonata in C Major, K. 521,
for one piano, four hands**

Allegro moderato
Andante
Allegretto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Op. 56b

Theme. Chorale St. Antoni. Andante
Variation I. Poco più animato
Variation II. Più vivace
Variation III. Con moto
Variation IV. Andante con moto
Variation V. Vivace
Variation VI. Vivace
Variation VII. Grazioso
Variation VIII. Presto non troppo
Finale. Andante

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

INTERMISSION

Fantasy in F Minor, D. 940

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Trois mouvements de *Pétrouchka*

Danse russe (Russian Dance)
Chez Pétrouchka (Petrouchka's Room)
La semaine grasse (The Shrovetide Fair)

Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

MEET THE ARTISTS

Praised by critics as “a diva of the piano” (*The Salt Lake City Tribune*), “a mesmerizing risk-taker” (*The Plain Dealer, Cleveland*), and “simply spectacular” (*Chicago International Music Foundation*) Ukrainian-American pianist **Marina Lomazov** has established herself as one of the most passionate and charismatic performers on the concert scene today. Following prizes in the Cleveland International Piano Competition, William Kapell International Piano Competition, Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, and Hilton Head International Piano Competition, Ms. Lomazov has given performances throughout North

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America, South America, China, South Korea, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Japan, and in nearly all of the fifty states in the U.S.

Marina Lomazov has given major debuts in New York (Weill-Carnegie Hall), Boston (Symphony Hall), Chicago (Dame Myra Hess Concert Series), Los Angeles (Museum of Art), Shanghai (City Theater), and Kiev (Kiev International Music Festival). She has performed as soloist with the Boston Pops, Rochester Philharmonic, Eastman Philharmonia, Chernigov Philharmonic (Ukraine), KUG Orchester Graz (Austria), Bollington Festival Orchestra (England), Piccolo Spoleto Festival Orchestra, Brevard Festival Orchestra, and ten performances with the South Carolina Philharmonic, to name a few. *New York Times* chief music critic Anthony Tommasini describes a recent New York performance as “dazzling” and *Talk Magazine Shanghai* describes her performances as “a dramatic blend of boldness and wit.” Marina Lomazov is a Steinway Artist.

In recent seasons, Lomazov has performed extensively in China, including concerts in Shenyang, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Dalian, Guangzhou, Jinan, Nanjing, Qingdao, and Yingkou. She is a frequent guest at music festivals in the U.S. and abroad, including Hamamatsu, Chautauqua, Brevard, Miami, Seoul, Art of the Piano, Burgos (Spain), Sulzbach-Rosenberg (Germany), and Varna (Bulgaria), among others. She has recorded for the Albany, Centaur, and Innova labels and *American Record Guide* praised her recent recording of piano works by Rodion Shchedrin for its “breathtaking virtuosity”. She has been featured on *National Public Radio’s* “Performance Today,” the “Bravo” cable channel, and *WNYC’s* “Young Artist Showcase” and her recordings have been broadcast more than 100 times by *WNYC* and *WQXR* in New York, *WFMT* in Chicago, and *WBGH* in Boston.

Before immigrating to the United States in 1990, Marina studied at the Kiev Conservatory where she became the youngest First Prize Winner at the all-Kiev Piano Competition. Ms. Lomazov holds degrees from the Juilliard School and the Eastman School of Music, the latter bestowing upon her the highly coveted Artist’s Certificate—an honor the institution had not given a pianist for nearly two decades. Her principal teachers include Natalya Antonova, Jerome Lowenthal, and Barry Snyder. Also active as a chamber musician, Lomazov has performed widely as a member of the Lomazov/Rackers Piano Duo. Praised for “demon precision and complete dedication” (Audio Society), The duo garnered significant attention as Second Prize winners at the Sixth Biennial Ellis Competition for Duo Pianists (2005), the only national duo piano

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competition in the United States at that time. As advocates of modern repertoire for duo piano, they have given premieres of numerous works across the United States, including several works written specifically for them.

Ms. Lomazov is a Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music. She has served as jury member for the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Hilton Head International Piano Competition, Eastman International Piano Competition, Minnesota International Piano e-Competition, National Federation Biennial Young Artist Auditions, and is the chair of the National Panel for the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts, the organization that nominates Presidential Scholars in the arts. For 17 years she served on the faculty of the University of South Carolina School of Music, where she held the chair of Ira McKissick Koger Professor of Fine Arts. Together with her husband and piano duo partner Joseph Rackers, she co-founded and serves as Co-Artistic Director of the Southeastern Piano Festival in Columbia, SC. Lomazov is a Steinway Artist.

Hailed as an “American Virtuoso” (*Audiophile Audition*), “enormous power and intelligent, instinctive interpretation” (*Spoletto Today*), and “simply dazzling” (*The State*), pianist **Joseph Rackers** has performed for enthusiastic audiences in New York, Boston, Chicago, Kiev, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Rome, Shanghai, Seoul, and Washington D.C., at venues across Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Spain, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and extensively throughout the United States. His performances around the world include the Shanghai and Sichuan Conservatories of Music, Kiev International Music Festival, Gina Bachauer International Piano Festival, Seoul International Piano Festival, Dame Myra Hess Concert Series, Banff Centre for the Arts, Indiana University Piano Festival, American Liszt Society Festival, Yantai International Music Festival, Varna International Piano Festival, and Society of Composers International Conference, in addition to recitals in Atlanta, Buffalo, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Nashville, Key West, Phoenix, Savannah, Seattle, and St. Louis, among others. *Gramophone* writes, “the results are consistently compelling... if Rackers response were primarily to his relationship with the composer as some sort of kindred spirit.”

Joseph Rackers is an International Steinway Artist. His recordings as soloist, collaborative pianist and producer are available on MSR Classics, Navona, Centaur, Equilibrium, Beauport Classics, and Steinway Spirio and

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his performances have been broadcast on radio and television across the United States and Europe. His recent solo release with MSR Classics was widely recognized by the press; “unflappable virtuosity... highly expressive... committed to letting the composer’s voice—as he hears it—come through” (*American Record Guide*), “compelling power, rhythmic persuasiveness... consummate style... complete mastery” (*Audio Society*).

Rackers is Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music and Artistic Director of the Southeastern Piano Festival and the Vivace International Piano Festival. He has been honored as an Illustrious Alumni of the University of Missouri School of Music for the one-hundredth anniversary of the school and has also been honored by the South Carolina House of Representatives and South Carolina State Senate for his personal contribution to the arts in South Carolina and leadership of the Southeastern Piano Festival. Prior to his appointment at Eastman, he served as Professor of Piano at the University of South Carolina School of Music and head of the Piano Area.

Also active as a chamber musician, Rackers has performed widely as a member of the Lomazov/Rackers Piano Duo. Praised for “demon precision and complete dedication” (*Audio Society*), the duo garnered significant attention as the Second Prize Winners of the Sixth Ellis Competition for Duo Pianists, the only national duo piano competition in the United States at that time. *Gramophone* praises the duo for “assured and centered pianism” and *American Record Guide* writes “the ensemble between Lomazov and Rackers is dead-on.” Rackers earned the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees at the Eastman School of Music, where he was also awarded the Performer’s Certificate. His principal teachers were Raymond Herbert and Natalya Antonova with additional study or masterclasses with Julian Martin, Misha Dichter and Blanca Uribe, among others.

A devoted teacher, Rackers has given masterclasses at Indiana University, University of Michigan, Boston University, Gina Bachauer International Piano Festival, UCLA, UNLV, Vanderbilt, and at conservatories and music festivals across Europe, China, and South Korea. He is in demand as a jury member for national and international piano competitions and his students have earned dozens of national and international awards including the MTNA National Competition, Minnesota International E-Piano Competition, Washington D.C., Seattle, Steinway, YoungArts, IYIM, Blount-Slawson, Liszt-Garrison, and numerous others.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT EASTMAN

TICKETS

ONLINE: www.EastmanTheatre.org

PHONE: (585) 274-3000

IN PERSON: 433 East Main Street | 9:30 AM—2:30 PM

Information about upcoming Eastman concerts and events can be found at:

www.rochester.edu/Eastman/calendar



www.facebook.com/ConcertsAtEastman

Kilbourn Hall fire exits are located at the right and left rear of the hall. In the event of an emergency, you will be notified by the stage manager. If notified, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest exit.

Please note: The use of unauthorized photographic and recording equipment is not allowed in this building. We reserve the right to ask anyone disrupting a performance to leave the hall.

Restrooms are located in the Wolk Atrium near the rear doors of Hatch Recital Hall. Fully-accessible restrooms are available on the first floor of the Eastman School. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to them.

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