

SILVER-GARBURG | Piano Duo

In the great and often underappreciated art of piano duo playing, Sivan Silver and her partner Gil Garburg are setting a new standard: acclaimed by audiences and critics alike, the duo has been invited time and time again by top orchestras, festivals, and concert organizers. They have performed in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Vienna Musikverein, the Sydney Opera House, and the Berlin Philharmonie; they have concertized in approximately 70 countries on five continents; and they collaborate regularly with such orchestras as the Israel Philharmonic, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie.

Their recording of Mendelssohn's concertos for two pianos and orchestra, with the Bavarian Chamber Philharmonic under Christopher Hogwood, has been called "breathtaking" (Bayerische Rundfunk), "extremely exciting" (Süddeutsche Zeitung), and "brilliant" (Rondo). The Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung raved about the "lyrical sensitivity and the ravishing technical mastery" of the duo, noting that only rarely does one experience "such spontaneous shouts of 'bravo'" at the end of a concert. The Independent concluded: "What a wondrous evening!"

The two Israelis, who live in Berlin with their son, can be heard during the 2014-15 season in North America, Latin America, East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and in numerous European countries – both with orchestra and in recitals. Upcoming engagements also include tours with the Munich Chamber Orchestra, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, and the Brno Philharmonic across the Czech Republic, Germany, and Austria – in the Vienna Konzerthaus among other notable venues. In addition, spring 2015 will see the release of their most recent recording on the label of their new exclusive partner, Berlin Classics: Stravinsky's *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring* for four hands. An additional CD will be dedicated to the last works of Schubert.

In their late thirties, after 17 years of playing together, Sivan Silver and Gil Garburg are establishing themselves as a presence at the top echelon of the music world – which, as a piano duo, is doubly challenging: developing exciting interpretations and rendering them with virtuosity and refinement is not enough. A duo must also have a sense of oneness and of the ever-changing roles of the four hands. Avowed perfectionists Silver and Garburg rehearse for six hours each day, with a particular commitment to the details that are often inaudible on a conscious level – which is to say, the details that make the difference. These include shifting the balance at moments of harmonic change and carrying out minimal variations in tempo; the instinctive understanding between Silver and Garburg is so deep that the two even breathe together. "We express our own emotions and, at the same time, a combined sensibility. We are one, and yet we're in dialogue with each other – that's the magic," says Silver. And Garburg adds: "The more we work together, the more we grow together and the freer we become. Like a conductor realizes his or her vision with an orchestra, we can realize all that we envision with four hands."

The literature for piano duo is far richer and more significant than is revealed by the typical concert fare. Silver and Garburg, in addition to performing the standard repertoire, constantly and enthusiastically discover new works for themselves. With orchestras, they perform everything from Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Bruch to Poulenc, Martinu, Bartók, and contemporary composers. They present an astounding number of original compositions for two pianos and piano four hands, as well as

arrangements by the composers themselves – for example, Schubert, Schumann, Liszt, and Dvořák. Brahms alone penned dozens of pieces for piano four hands, among them the original versions of almost all of his quartets and quintets and many orchestral works!

In 2014, the Graz University for the Arts unanimously chose the Silver-Garburg Duo (over numerous well-known competitors) to occupy one of the few extant professorships for piano duo. Previously, they taught at the Hannover Conservatory, the elite German piano school at which they themselves completed their studies in 2007 under Arie Vardi.

Sivan Silver and Gil Garburg are invigorated by the need to constantly adapt to the demands of duo recitals and orchestral engagements, moving between intimate pieces that require unity, dialogic works, and those in which they evoke the grand power of an entire orchestra at the two pianos. “As a piano duo, it’s easy to make effects with virtuosity. But that alone is far too little. We want to move our listeners emotionally.” According to reactions from their audiences, their colleagues, and the press, they’re doing it.

For further information please visit www.silvergarburg.com.

2014-2015: Changes and abridgements must be approved by June Artists Management.