

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 Salzburg Festspielhaus, 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, the Melbourne Symphony, 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*). Their Stravinsky ballets CD has been described as "grandiose" (*Pizzicato*, Supersonic award), "thrilling" (*Fono Forum*, CD of the Month) and "wonderfully enchanting" (*Der Neue Merker*). 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 2018-19 in North and Latin America, East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and in numerous European countries.

The duo will perform over twenty times a new concerto, based on Brahms's G minor piano quartet, with orchestras in Berlin, Vienna, Jerusalem, Bratislava, Spokane, Klagenfurt, Tel Aviv, and Bremen. The Austrian composer Richard Dünser, with whom they closely collaborate, successfully combined the two original versions by Brahms himself into a concerto for piano, four hands and string orchestra written for the duo.

Silver and Garburg will celebrate Bohuslav Martinů's 100th anniversary, performing his vigorous two pianos concerto with the Brno Philharmonic and the Orchestre National de Lorraine in a tour culminating at the Konzerthaus Vienna. Playing a cycle of the complete Beethoven piano concerti will mark the festive reopening of the Christchurch Town hall, rebuilt after the 2011 earthquake.

Other current unique projects include a Schubert-Mendelssohn chamber program for piano four hands and string quartet with colleagues such as Vogler, Artis and Novus quartets and soloists as Guy Braunstein, Rosanne Philippens, Jack Liebeck, Gilad Karni and Olaf Maninger and premiering new movements by Anna Segal, integrated into Saint Saëns' Carnival of the Animals. In addition, early 2019 will see the release of their most recent recording on Berlin Classics, with works by Liszt, Schumann, Saint Saëns and Debussy.

Concerti by Bach (Luxembourg Philharmonie), Mozart (Slovak Philharmonic Hall), Mendelssohn (Berlin Philharmonie) and Poulenc (Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) as well as numerous recitals (Konzerthaus Berlin) round up their current season's concert list.

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

Silver and Garburg were well on the way to promising solo careers when they paired up first privately and then at the piano. "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."

After 20 years of playing together, Sivan Silver and Gil Garburg are establishing themselves at the top echelon of the music world. "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 and bring them to the core of the music".