

# melissa marse

Pianist Melissa Marse has been featured in New York venues including Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Pierpont Morgan Library, and Carnegie Hall as well as the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and the Gardner Museum in Boston. Her solo and chamber music performances spanning the repertoire are being met with critical acclaim throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia.

In February 2001 upon invitation by the late Isaac Stern, she debuted in Carnegie Weill Hall with the Lincoln Piano Trio. She has been a returning guest artist for *CarnegieKids*, and was music director, coach, and pianist for the Metropolitan Opera's *Growing Up with Opera*. She has collaborated with members of the New York Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, London Symphony, Berlin Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, and was a vocal soloist for New Music New Haven. She sings professionally with the Grammy nominated ensemble *Conspirare*, directed by Craig Hella Johnson. Additionally, she is a founding Artist Member and Board Member of the New York based chamber music society *America's Dream Chamber Artists*.

She has played under the baton of conductors including James Conlon, John Debney, James DePriest, Jerry Junkin, Jahja Ling, Lawrence Loh, Timothy Muffit, Murray Sidlin, Lawrence Leighton Smith, Yuri Temirkanov, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Gerhardt Zimmermann. Other musicians with whom she has worked include Boris Berman, Vladimir Feltsman, Peter Frankl, Aldo Parisot, Robert White, and the Tokyo String Quartet. Radio appearances include NPR's *Performance Today*, WNYC, WKBH, Texas public radio broadcasts, and public radio in Japan and the Slovak Republic. Festival appearances include the Pacific Music Festival, Juilliard Focus Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Victoria Bach Festival, ProMusicis Foundation Concerts, and the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop. She has appeared as soloist with the Vancouver Symphony, Victoria Symphony, Ft. Worth Symphony, and the Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra in addition to various film music studio orchestras in Los Angeles.

Ms. Marse completed Professional Studies at The Juilliard School with Brian Zeger while also studying with Herbert Stessin and the late Samuel Sanders. She obtained a Masters Degree at Yale University as a scholarship student of Claude Frank, and received a Bachelor of Music degree with honors from the University of Texas. Her Doctorate degree was awarded from New England Conservatory.

Melissa was the recipient of the Certificate of Distinction for her teaching at Harvard University. She has also taught at Texas State University, the Mannes Art Song Institute, the Plymouth Music Festival, and is a frequent piano competition adjudicator. She is currently the Head of the Keyboard Department at Houston Baptist University.

2006 - 2007 season highlights included Shostakovich *Concerto No. 2* with the Austin Symphony, Merkin Hall as pianist in the Mark O'Connor Trio with Rosanne Cash, and Liszt's *Totentanz* with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic. Upcoming 2007- 2008 engagements include Steinway Hall, Carnegie Hall, Library of Congress, and the Meyerson Center. Melissa is the founding Artistic Director of the Houston Chamber Music Society, founded in 2007.

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