

With her vivid stage presence, passionate musicianship and extraordinary technique, striking young Russian pianist **OLGA KERN** captivates fans and critics alike. Her performance of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 at the 11th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2001 garnered the Gold Medal; she was the first woman to achieve this distinction in more than 30 years. In 2004 she gave her acclaimed New York City recital debut at Carnegie's Zankel Hall. In an unprecedented turn of events, 11 days later she gave a recital in Isaac Stern Auditorium at the invitation of Carnegie Hall.

This season, she performs all of the Rachmaninoff concertos in residence with the Colorado Symphony and performs in several concerts with famed soprano Kathleen Battle. Last summer marked her fourth engagement at the Ravinia Festival for Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Chicago Symphony. She performed at the Brevard Music Festival and International Keyboard Institute; she gave a recital and master classes in New York City.

She has appeared worldwide with orchestras such as the Royal, Moscow, La Scala, Warsaw, Seoul and Czech Philharmonics; St. Petersburg, China, Detroit, Nashville, Vancouver and Taipei Symphonies; Moscow Virtuosi and Orquestra de São Paulo. She made a critically acclaimed 35-city tour of the United States in 2007 with the National Philharmonic of Russia.

Festival appearances include the Interlochen, *Bravo!* Vail, Ravinia, Klavier Ruhr, Kissinger Sommer, Radio-France Montpellier and Busoni Festivals. She is artistic director of the Cape Town Festival.

The winner of the first Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition at 17, she is a laureate of 11 international competitions. She received an honorary scholarship from the President of Russia in 1996 and is a member of Russia's International Academy of Arts. She studied at the Moscow Central School, Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and Italy's Accademia Pianistica Incontri col Maestro.

Her discography on Harmonia Mundi includes recordings of works by Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and Corelli. She was featured in *Playing on the Edge*, the award-winning documentary about the 2001 Cliburn Competition.