



Kevin Kenner

Concert Pianist/Master Teacher

Biography

Recognized as one of the top Chopin interpreters of our time, Kevin Kenner was the top prize winner in the 1990 Chopin Competition in Warsaw, as well as top prizes in the Tchaikovsky Competition and the Terrance Judd Competition, among others.

Born in California, Kenner was introduced early to the classical music traditions of Poland and studied as a teenager with Poland's eminent professor Ludwik Stefański in Cracow. When he returned to the U.S. he continued his studies with Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and worked with Leonard Bernstein at the Tanglewood Music Center. Following a concert tour with conductor Stanisław Skrowaczewski, who frequently performed and recorded with Artur Rubinstein, described his collaborations with Kenner to be the most sensitive and beautiful he remembered.

He has performed and recorded with violinist Kyung-Wha Chung and concertized with the Tokyo, Escher, Belcea, Mosaiques, Apollon Musagete, Endellion and Vogler Quartets. In addition, he has frequently been invited to appear at the Verbier Festival and Warsaw's "Chopin and His Europe" Festival.

A distinguished recording artist, Kenner's interpretations of works by Paderewski and Chopin were each picked as recordings of the month by Gramophone magazine. Other recordings were heralded by Diapason, Fanfare and Polish National Radio.

After teaching for more than a decade as professor at London's Royal College of Music, Kenner accepted a post at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where he continues to prepare many young talented pianists for international performance careers. He has served as juror at the Busoni Competition in Bolzano and at the Chopin International Competition in Warsaw among many others.

Selected Reviews

Chopin Late Works: "Kenner's sense of the long line and overall architecture is as impressive as his idiomatic phrasing." (Gramophone)

Paderewski Piano Works: "His approach to Paderewski's music reveals long acquaintance and great affection, with beautifully judged rubato and a beguiling intimacy....this is a piano disc - let alone a Paderewski recital - to treasure." (Gramophone)

Chopin Resonances: "...counting amongst the most subtle and expressive piano playing enjoyed in several years" (Fanfare Magazine)

Paderewski Piano Concerto, Polish Fantasy: "Absolutely inspired collaboration between a master artist of the keyboard and a great orchestra" (American Record Guide)

"Paderewski's superb Piano Concerto... and the sparkling Polish Fantasy receive fiery treatment here. Kenner is excellent." (BBC Music Magazine)

"If we only discover one pianist during this year of Chopin, let it be Kevin Kenner." (Le nouvel Observateur)

"...One of the important Chopin pianists of our time" (Fanfare Magazine)

Ravel Piano Works: "It is a quintessence of a remarkable musician's style. Deserves maximum interest." (Scherzo Magazine, Spain)

"His recital revealed an artist whose intellect, imagination and pianism speak powerfully and eloquently." (The Washington Post)

"You listen to him and think how obvious it is that the music should be played this way and it seems so simple that you wonder why everyone doesn't do it." (The Washington Post)

"...the best performance I have ever heard in the concert hall of all four of Chopin's Ballades." (The Independent)

"His recital's strengths reaffirmed his stature as one of the finest American pianists to come along in years." (Chicago Tribune)