

Szlubowska-Belsky Duo

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2024-25

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Critically acclaimed and internationally renowned in their individual careers, violinist Marta Szlubowska and pianist Svetlana Belsky unite to explore the great masterpieces of violin and piano repertoire, as well as lesser-known works of Polish and Ukrainian composers.

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Praised for her “warm lyricism and flawless technique” by Le soir (Belgium) and for her “gripping performance of music by Grazyna Bacewicz” by The Washington Post, Polish violinist, Marta Szlubowska is a sought-after soloist, chamber musician, teacher and a concertmaster. Her concerts have taken her to over 15 countries throughout Europe and Americas. From 2004 - 2022 she was the Concertmaster and Soloist of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra in Jackson, MS.

A winner of numerous awards, fellowships and prizes such as 1st Prizes at the Marbury and Yale Gordon Competitions and the 2nd Prize in the Bryan International String Competition, Ms. Szlubowska has appeared as a soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic, North Carolina Symphony, and many others. She has given numerous performances at Tanglewood, Meadowmount and Colorado Music Festivals. Ms. Szlubowska performed under the baton of Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa at Tanglewood, as well as Alexander Schneider at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Critically acclaimed as "a passionate pianist and scholar," Svetlana Belsky is an in-demand recitalist and chamber pianist, noted for her remarkable rapport with audiences and stylistic versatility. She has appeared in Italy, Ukraine, Russia, Poland, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and throughout the United States. Dr. Belsky has received awards both for her performances in international piano competitions, and for her advocacy of new American music. Her recordings have been heard on radio stations worldwide. The American Record Guide hails her CD of the solo version of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring (Centaur, 2014) as an “extraordinary performance.” The album is the recipient of a Global Music Award. While Svetlana's musical interests range from performing early Baroque masterpieces on harpsichord to premiering new music commissioned by her chamber ensembles, the love of her musical life is the music and the legacy of Ferruccio Busoni. She is the author of *Busoni as Pianist* (an annotated translation from the Russian, Eastman Studies in Music, 2010), which had been featured on BBC radio in December 2016. Her most recent CD *Busoni: The Late Works* (Ravello, 2019) is described as "Marrying awe-inducing technical capabilities to an artistic intuition of mind-boggling depth."



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Critics Write



"Stunningly beautiful"; Szymanowski's "Dryads and Pan" is "wonderfully fantastical... Marta Szlubowska's virtuosity really takes off and Belsky has the most delicious of light touches." Paderewski violin sonata "exudes a Brahmsian warmth, especially when heard with Szlubowska's generosity of tone, while Belsky plays the demanding piano part with elfin fingers, skittering up and down the keyboard. Communication between the two players is a joy. [The middle movement] includes moments of intense beauty; the way the players here can melt into sweet lyricism is intensely memorable. Hats off to Szlubowska and Belsky for giving such a concentrated, successful reading"

-Colin Clarke, *Fanfare Magazine*

"The Violin Sonata by Paderewski is presented memorably by Szlubowska and Belsky in an account that makes us wonder why we haven't heard this great work performed more often in recitals. It opens with an Allegro con fantasia that makes use in passing of a tantalizingly familiar folk melody ... and works its way, stridently and magnificently, to one of confident affirmation."

-*Classical Reviews, Atlanta Audio Club*

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Selected Recent Performances

Fulton Hall (University of Chicago)
Polish Museum of America (Chicago)
University of Southern Mississippi
St. Francis Music Society (Alabama)
Skipworth Performing Arts Center (MS)
Northbrook Public Library (Illinois)



Discography



Myth and Romance
Music by Polish Composers



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