

VARSHAVSKI-SHAPIRO PIANO DUO

Biography



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"A piano duo that can charm even the most versed music lovers" (*Gazeta Krakowska*, Poland), the Varshavski-Shapiro Piano Duo is comprised of pianists Stanislava Varshavski and Diana Shapiro, who began playing together in 1998. Since then, they have gone on to capture the top prize at numerous national and international competitions, including the most prestigious competition for piano duos—the Murray Dranoff International Piano Competition in Miami. *Madisonmagazine* describes the Duo's performances as "edge-of-your-seat stuff" and says, "the audience seemed mesmerized as one."

A winner of Astral's 2012 National Auditions, the Varshavski-Shapiro Piano Duo also won First Prize at Italy's XV Piano Competition "Rome 2004," Jerusalem's Kol HaMusica Young Artists Competition, the Israel Chamber Music Competition, the XIII Schubert Competition in the Czech Republic,

Jerusalem's Sharon Tabor-Fintz Competition, and the First International Piano Duo Competition in Bialystok, Poland, where they were also awarded two of the competition's special prizes. Other prizes have included two recordings, as well as numerous concert tours throughout the world.

The Varshavski-Shapiro Piano Duo has participated in many international festivals and has performed recitals in such distinguished venues as the HKAPA Concert Hall in Hong Kong, Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem, Teatro Valle in Rome, and Lincoln Theater in Miami. They have appeared with the Radio Orchestra in Munich, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, and Miami's New World Symphony, and have recorded for Bavarian Radio, Radio 4 of Hong Kong, and Israeli National Radio. They have recently given concerts in Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, and Wisconsin, where they performed Poulenc's *Concerto for Two Pianos* with Manitowoc Symphony Orchestra.

The Duo has held residencies and presented master classes at numerous universities across the Midwest. They recently recorded a CD in collaboration with Wisconsin Public Radio; the performances were also broadcast live on WPR and recorded for a documentary film, presented on Wisconsin television. They have also been broadcast on New York's WQXR.

Both Ms. Varshavski and Ms. Shapiro hold Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, where they studied with legendary Israeli duo Alexander Tamir-Bracha Eden. They continued their education under renowned American pianist Victor Rosenbaum, and in 2011 both pianists completed Doctoral degree studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ms. Shapiro is Assistant Professor of Piano and teaches at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

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VARSHAVSKI-SHAPIO PIANO DUO

Critical Acclaim



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"Both artists are wonderful...a piano duo that can charm even the most versed music lovers."—*Gazeta Krakowska (Poland; translation)*

"the audience seemed mesmerized as one, and with eyes open or closed, there was abundant material to flash though one's mind...This performance was edge-of-your-seat stuff."—*Madisonmagazine*

"These two women are profound and extremely well prepared. Every time they play, they deliver a reliable performance. They have a lot to offer...they have become a successful piano duo in their own right..."—*Jerusalem Post (Israel; translation)*

"...a first-class ensemble..."—*Vesti (Israel, translation)*

"...one of the best contemporary piano duos...[they performed a] triumphant tour..."—*Nash Ierusalim (Israel; translation)*

"I was mightily impressed by the playing of both performers...They played with technical bravura and interpretive panache, maintaining a fine sense of ensemble and a supple flow of rubato, projecting a scintillating yet sympathetic conversation."—*Michael Caruso, The Chestnut Hill Local*