



FACULTY RECITAL

**Joanne Polk**  
**(DMA '90), piano**  
**Inesa Sinkevych**  
**(DMA '10), piano**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023 | 7:30 PM  
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL



*Manhattan School of Music's public programs are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.*



*Funded in part by a grant from the New York City Tourism Foundation.*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023 | 7:30 PM  
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

FACULTY RECITAL

# Joanne Polk (DMA '90), piano Inesa Sinkevych (DMA '10), piano

PROGRAM

CÉCILE CHAMINADE  
(1857–1944)

*La Sévillane*, Op.19

WANG JIE (BM '05, MM '07)  
(b. 1980)

*Game for Two* (2017)  
III. The Confrontation

SAMUEL BARBER  
(1910–1981)

*Souvenirs*, Op. 28  
*Waltz*  
*Schottische*  
*Pas de deux*  
*Two-Step*  
*Hesitation-Tango*  
*Galop*

*Intermission*

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF  
(1873–1943)

*Symphonic Dances*, Op. 45  
*Non allegro*  
*Andante con moto: (Tempo di valse)*  
*Lento assai. Allegro vivace*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Joanne Polk (DMA '90), piano

Pianist Joanne Polk was catapulted into the public eye with her recordings of the complete piano works of American composer Amy Beach (1867–1944) on the Arabesque Recordings label. Ms. Polk celebrated the centennial of Beach's Piano Concerto by giving the work its London premiere with the English Chamber Orchestra at the Barbican Center under the baton of Paul Goodwin. A few days later, Ms. Polk performed the Piano Concerto with the Women's Philharmonic in San Francisco with conductor Apo Hsu in a performance described as "brilliant" by critic Joshua Kosman of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He went on to describe Ms. Polk's performance as, "an enormously vital, imaginative reading. Her playing was expansive in the opening movement, brittle and keen in the delightful scherzo. She brought a light touch to the foreshortened slow movement and fearless technical panache to the showy conclusion."

The first recording in the Beach series, *by the still waters*, received the 1998 INDIE award for best solo recording. *Empress of Night*, the fifth volume of Ms. Polk's survey of Beach's piano works, includes the Piano Concerto with the English Chamber Orchestra, Paul Goodwin conducting. The sixth volume of the series, *Morning Glories*, joins Ms. Polk with the Lark Quartet in three outstanding chamber music works by Amy Beach. Two all-Beach performances at Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, which featured Joanne Polk and the Lark Quartet, were applauded by the *New York Times*, as they deemed Polk's performances "polished and assured." *American Record Guide* reported, "Polk and the Larks played their hearts out. We in the audience shouted ourselves hoarse with gratitude."

Prior to recording the complete piano music of Amy Beach, Ms. Polk recorded *Completely Clara: Lieder by Clara Wieck Schumann*, her debut CD for Arabesque Recording, featuring Metropolitan Opera soprano Korliss Uecker. This CD was selected as a "Best of the Year" recording by the *Seattle Times* and was featured on *Performance Today* on New York Public Radio. Ms. Polk's CD for Albany Records, *Callisto*, features the solo piano music of Judith Lang Zaimont. Her CD titled *Songs of Amy Beach*, recorded with baritone Patrick Mason for Bridge Records, was nominated for a Grammy Award. Ms. Polk's two-CD set of solo piano music by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, *Songs for Pianoforte*, was released on the Newport Classic label. Ms. Polk's solo piano CD, titled *Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn*, was released on the Bridge Records label.

In 2014, Ms. Polk's CD titled *The Flatterer*, solo piano music of French Romantic composer Cécile Chaminade, was released on the Steinway & Sons Label. The CD was a "Pick of the Week" on New York's classical radio station WQXR and debuted at #1 on the Classical Billboard Chart. In 2017, Joanne Polk's CD, *Gershwin & Wild*, was released on the Steinway & Sons Label and features Earl Wild's transcriptions of Gershwin songs, as well as Wild's Piano Sonata. *American Record Guide* called Ms. Polk's playing on this CD, "plush and dreamily attractive..."

In 2014, Joanne Polk was named one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of the Year in an article titled, "Profiles in Courage." Ms. Polk's profile focused on her work promoting the music of women composers.

Ms. Polk received her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Degrees from The Juilliard School, and her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Manhattan School of Music. She has given master classes at many summer festivals and universities across the country, and in 2018 completed a five-city, three-week concert and master class tour of Taiwan and China.

In 2019, two of Ms. Polk's CDs, *Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn* and *The Flatterer: Solo Piano Music by Cécile Chaminade*, were included on New York City's classical radio station WQXR's "Essential Piano Recordings."

In February 2020, Ms. Polk's CD *Louise Farrenc Etudes and Variations for Solo Piano*, was released on the Steinway & Sons Label. In December 2020, Ms. Polk's Farrenc CD was on the *New York Times*' "Best Classical Music of 2020" list.

Ms. Polk recently performed a recital of the complete *Seven Virtuoso Etudes on Gershwin Songs* transcribed by Earl Wild as well as Wild's *Theme and Variations on Someone to Watch Over Me* based on the Gershwin song. Ms. Polk's latest recording titled *The Silence Between the Notes: Louise Farrenc Solo Piano Music Volume 2*, was released on September 1, 2023, on the Steinway & Sons Label. In December 2023 and January 2024, Ms. Polk will travel to China on an eight-city concert and master class tour.

To find out more about Ms. Polk, please visit her website at [www.joannepolkpianist.com](http://www.joannepolkpianist.com).

"The music of Louise Farrenc, professor of piano at the Paris Conservatory for three decades after 1842, has been taped before, but never quite so well as in Joanne Polk's sample of her solo piano music. . ."

—*New York Times*, Best Classical Music of 2020

## **Inesa Sinkevych** (DMA '10), piano

A laureate of the 12th Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, Ukrainian-born pianist Inesa Sinkevych has also won first prizes in the Maria Canals International Piano Competition in Barcelona and the Concurso Internacional de Piano Premio “Jaén” in Spain, as well as awards in the Minnesota International Yamaha Piano-e-Competition; the Vianna da Motta and the Porto international competitions in Portugal; the Casagrande International Competition in Italy; the Panama International Competition; and the Cidade del Ferrol and Spanish Composers competitions in Spain. Inesa Sinkevych has been praised for her “intense, thrilling and sophisticated playing” (*General-Anzeiger*, Germany), “brilliant note-perfect fluency” (*New York Concert Review*), “grand passion and elegant lyricism” (*Audiophile Audition*), and “rich cantabile” (*Ritmo*, Spain). She has been described as a “Schubertian of real distinction,” with a “maturity that belies her age” (*Music Web International*), and as an “artist with intuition that knows to look far beyond technique” (*Diario de Noticias*, Lisbon). “Grasping the overarching structure and purpose,” writes *JWR Review*, “is Sinkevych’s strength.”

As soloist she has appeared with the Israel Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Gulbenkian Orchestra of Lisbon, Orquesta Nacional del Cuba, the Gran Canaria Philharmonic of Spain, the Porto Symphony of Portugal, the Tenerife Symphony of the Canary Islands, the Warsaw Symphony Orchestra, and the Kharkov Youth Orchestra, among others. She has performed as recitalist, chamber player, and orchestral soloist at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, the Purcell Room in London’s Royal Festival Hall, the Minnesota Orchestra Hall, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, the Hong Kong City Hall, Guanghualu Arts Center in Beijing, Joaquin Rodrigo Auditorium in Madrid, the National Philharmonic Hall of Ukraine, and the Great Hall of the Centro Cultural de Belém in Lisbon. Recent performances include appearances at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York, Bar Harbor Music Festival, Dame Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago, Festival de El Valle de Anton in Panama, with the Orquesta Nacional del Cuba and Orquesta Mozartiano de La Habana, as well as in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenyang, and Guangzhou in China on tour. Inesa Sinkevych appeared live on WFMT Chicago, Kol Israel, Classical WETA Washington, the RDP Portugal, Minnesota Public Radio, and Mezzo Classic TV Channel, France. She performed at the Israeli Presidential Conference (2008) in Jerusalem for U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli President Shimon Peres.

Inesa Sinkevych is guest faculty at the Interharmony (Italy), Euroarts (Halle, Germany), Manhattan in the Mountains (Catskills, NY), Summit (New York), and Forum Musicae (Madrid, Spain) summer festivals, and a Co-Director of the Piano in the Mountains International Festival (Hunter, New York). A judge for the Maria Canals International Piano Competition in Barcelona, Spain and the Junior Peace and Music Ambassador Competition, and head of the jury for the International Shostakovich Piano Competition in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, she is also visiting faculty at the FaceArt Music School in Shanghai, an Honorary Board member at the Anselmo Academy, New York, and an honorary advisor to the Leaves Music School in Nanjing, China.

Inesa Sinkevych began her piano studies at the Kharkov Special Music School in her native Ukraine with Victor Makarov and later studied with Alexander Volkov at the Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. A scholarship from the America–Israel Cultural Foundation enabled her to further her studies with Solomon Mikowsky in the United States, where she received her Master of Music degree at the Chicago College of Performing Arts and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Manhattan School of Music. Dr. Sinkevych has been a member of the Piano faculty of Manhattan School of Music’s College Division since 2014 and Precollege Division since 2008. She has served as Co-Head of the Piano Department at MSM since 2022.

# ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 1,000 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a highly competitive and professionally oriented Saturday music program, dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

## Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit [giving.msmnyc.edu](https://giving.msmnyc.edu)

## Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



**MSMNYC.EDU**