

AN HOMAGE TO KAROL SZYMANOWSKI AT MERKIN HALL
THURSDAY, MARCH 29
ANNA KIJANOWSKA (piano) SHARON ROFFMAN (violin) IRIS JORTNER (cello)



Polish Pianist Anna Kijanowska

Music of Karol Szymanowski is featured in an anniversary concert **THURSDAY, MARCH 29 at 8 PM at MERKIN CONCERT HALL** (129 W. 67th Street @ Broadway. Three outstanding musicians - Anna Kijanowska, piano; Sharon Roffman, violin; and Iris Jortner, cello - join forces in this chamber concert marking the 70th anniversary of the great composer's death. Tickets are \$20 / students \$15, and can be purchased at the Merkin Hall Box Office (212-501-3330) or online at http://www.kaufman-center.org/tc/0607/karol_032907.php. The concert is presented by the Polish Cultural Institute, with the Kosciuszko Foundation as sponsor.

Anna Kijanowska has achieved international recognition for her performances of Szymanowski's works. Her 2005 recording of Mazurkas Op. 50 and 62 was hailed as a "highly distinctive release" (Phil Muse, *Classik Reviews*, 2006) and "a revelation." (Jed Distler, *Classics Today*, 2006). Having devoted her doctoral dissertation to Szymanowski's music, Kijanowska is able to infuse her playing with the detailed articulation that comes from careful study. James Leonard of *All Music Guide* writes, "Kijanowska's performances are amazingly virtuosic, astonishingly charismatic, astoundingly empathic, and completely compelling." An artist recognized as "one of the most brilliant pianists of her generation," Kijanowska has distinguished herself internationally as a recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloist. Ms. Kijanowska made her New York debut in 1998 with a live radio broadcast on WNYC. Since then she has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Manhattan School of Music, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the Kennedy Center, the Polish Embassy in Washington D.C., and the Kosciuszko Foundation. As a chamber musician, she has collaborated with such eminent performers as Charles Castleman, Diane Monroe, and Basil Vendryes. Ms Kijanowska began her musical education in Poland and received a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Music Academy in Wroclaw, after which she was awarded a scholarship to study with Dr. Madeleine Forte at Boise State University in the United States. Ms. Kijanowska holds a Doctorate and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Manhattan School of Music in New York, where she studied with Byron Janis, Mykola Suk, Sara Davis Buechner and Marc Silverman. She has been a recipient of numerous scholarships, from various donors including the Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women, the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Batory Foundation and the Manhattan School of Music. She is currently on the music faculty at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Details below.

LISTINGS:

WHAT: An Homage to Karol Szymanowski. Anna Kijanowska, piano, Sharon Roffman, violin, Iris Jortner, cello.

WHEN: Thursday, March 29, 8 PM

WHERE: Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center, Goodman House

129 W. 67th Street (between Broadway and Amsterdam), New York, NY 10023

PROGRAM: Sonata op. 9 in D minor for violin and piano , transcribed for cello by Kazimierz Wilkomirski ;Myths op. 30 for violin and piano;

Piano Mazurkas op. 50 and 62 (selections)

TRANSPORTATION: Subway: 1 to 66th Street; busses: M5, M7, M11, M66 and M104

ADMISSION: \$20 / students \$15, Box office: 212 501 3330 or http://www.kaufman-center.org/tc/0607/karol_032907.php

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sharon Roffman, violinist, a graduate of the Juilliard School and the Cleveland Institute of Music, as a student of Donald Weilerstein and Itzhak Perlman, made her solo debut with the New Jersey Symphony in 1997. In 2003 she was a prize winner at the 2003 Naumburg Foundation International Violin Competition, made her Carnegie Hall debut as a featured soloist in Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins with Itzhak Perlman playing and conducting, and performed the same piece in a "Live from Lincoln Center" broadcast of its Perlman Music Program. Ms. Roffman has been a frequent guest performer in the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's "Meet the Music" and "Inside Chamber Music" series and at the Marlboro Music Festival. She currently teaches at the Thurnauer School of Music in Tenafly, NJ, the Manhattan School of Music, and Kean University. Ms. Roffman is the founder and director of ClassNotes, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to introducing public school students to classical music.

Iris Jortner, cellist, born and raised in Tel Aviv, received degrees from the Eastman School, Amsterdam Conservatory, Mannes College of Music, and the Hochschule der Musik in Cologne, Germany. She was a founding member from 1997 to 2002 of the Tel Aviv Quartet, which won the Grand Prix at the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, and top prizes in competitions in Holland and the Czech Republic. She has toured worldwide, performing in prestigious venues from the Sydney Opera House to the Kennedy Center and Alice Tully Hall, recording widely for television. She has performed at Isaac Stern's 65th Birthday concert at the Jerusalem Music Center and his 80th at Carnegie Hall. Festivals include, among many others, Tanglewood, Dubrovnik, and the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival. The recipient of many awards internationally, Ms. Jortner is currently on the faculty of the McIntire Department of Music at the University of Virginia, and is a regular guest artist at the Apple Hill Summer Festival.