

Constantly recognized as an imaginative and refined performer with unusual interpretations, "a very special pianist with an extraordinary intuition for music" (Joseph Swensen, 2018), French pianist Mathilde Handelsman has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe and the United States. Recent festival performances include the Tanglewood Music Center, Sarasota Music Festival, Wissembourg International Music Festival, and Pianofest in the Hamptons.

Highlights from the 2019-2020 concert season featured her appearance alongside pianist Nicolas Namoradze at the inauguration of the Tanglewood Learning Institute, in a highly acclaimed two-piano performance. This season, Mathilde will be partaking in the 250th anniversary of Beethoven, in several performances including a solo recital at the "Beethoven 250" concert series of Nicholls University in Louisiana. Recent solo recital appearances as a guest artist include the University of Maryland, Lynn University, the Frost School of Music and Southern Methodist University.

In 2019, Sheva released her *début* solo album featuring the complete works of Claude Debussy from 1903 to 1907. A collaborative album devoted to new commissions for woodwinds and piano will be released in 2020. An avid performer of new music, Mathilde has worked closely with several composers including Roger Boutry, Paul Méfano, Jean-Yves Bosseur, Marc Neikrug, Adam Silverman and Thomas Adès, among others, and she regularly performs music by Ligeti, Knussen, Hosokawa and many other 20th and 21st century composers. Her performer-composer collaborations have led to several international premieres in Paris, Spain, and across the United States.

Passionate about poetry and literature, Mathilde enthusiastically participates in cross-genre and interdisciplinary projects involving music and theater. In 2018, she curated the show "The Wandering Poet," alongside musicians and actors Edward Cho, Marie-Anne Favreau and Valerio Zaina, a musical and theatrical tale based on poems by Federico Lorca. Mathilde was also the solo pianist in the French production of "Les Aurores de Sand" by Annie Corbier in 2010, a play centered around George Sand. Additionally, Mathilde's work as a poet includes two published volumes, *Pré-sage* (2016) and *L'Absurde Génie des fleurs* (2017).

As a teacher, Mathilde has taught piano as well as an array of academic courses in France and the United States. She has been invited to give masterclasses at the University of Texas-Arlington and the Frost School of Music in Miami, conferences for the Pittsburgh Music Teachers Association, and regularly serves as an adjudicator for the Virginia Music Teachers Association competitions and festivals. From 2009 to 2015, Mathilde kept an active piano studio in Paris and Strasbourg, France. She currently works as piano instructor at the Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy in Virginia and previously served on the faculty of Young Pianists at Indiana University Bloomington. This winter, she was invited by the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking to design and teach a course on European avant-garde music after 1945, which integrates the study of avant-garde trends in literature with musical analysis.

Mathilde was born in Paris to a family of musicians and painters. She started the piano with her mother at age four and was admitted a few years later to the pre-college division of the Conservatoire de Paris (CRR) which led her to perform in prestigious venues including Opéra

Bastille and a concert under Seiji Ozawa. She has won prizes at national and international piano competitions in France such as Concours International d'Ile-de-France, Concours de Chatou, Claude Kahn and U.F.A.M. In 2009, she was awarded the 1st prize at the Young Artists Competition of Alès.

Mathilde Handelsman's principal teachers are John O'Connor, Menahem Pressler, and Laurent Cabasso. She has also received recent guidance and mentorship from Emanuel Ax, Peter Serkin, Robert Levin, Jeffrey Kahane, Philippe Cassard and Jean-Yves Thibaudet. After graduating "Magna cum laude" from the Académie Supérieure de Musique de Strasbourg, Mathilde furthered her studies at the Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University-Bloomington. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate (DMA) at Shenandoah University on a full-tuition scholarship.

Mathilde is a member of College Music Society and Music Teachers National Association.