

Recognized as an imaginative and unusual performer with refined interpretations, for her “calm technical mastery, immediate understanding of balance” as well as “extraordinary vigor, flawless musicality,” (Dernieres Nouvelles d’Alsace), Mathilde Handelsman is a concert pianist, poet, and educator from Paris, France.

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In 2020, Mathilde's début solo album, *Images*, featuring the complete works of Claude Debussy from 1903 to 1907, was released for the record label Sheva.

Mathilde's career has spanned across Europe and the United States as a soloist and collaborative musician, and has led her to perform under conductors such as Seiji Ozawa, Thomas Adès, Luigi Gaggero, and Martin Gester. She has performed in halls such as Opéra Bastille, Maison de la Radio, Théâtre de la Cartoucherie, Cité de la Musique et de la Danse de Strasbourg, Palacio de Congressos in Granada, among others. Recent festival performances include the Tanglewood Music Center, Sarasota Music Festival, Wissembourg International Music Festival, Porto Pianofest, and Pianofest in the Hamptons.

Highlights from the past few seasons featured her appearance alongside Yo-Yo Ma in a performance in the Berkshires, as well as a two-piano collaboration with Nicolas Namoradze at the inauguration of the Tanglewood Learning Insitute in 2019, which received high critical acclaim. Mathilde’s debut performance at Carnegie Hall is scheduled for the fall of 2022.

In 2020, Mathilde joined the music faculty of the University of New Hampshire where she currently holds the position of Lecturer in Music and head of the keyboard area. She previously served on the piano faculty of the Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy in Virginia and the Young Pianists Program at Indiana University Bloomington. She has been invited to give masterclasses at the University of Texas-Arlington, Radford University, and the Frost School of Music in Miami, lecture-recitals and conferences for the Pittsburgh Music Teachers Association and the Virginia Music Teachers Association, and regularly serves as an adjudicator for competitions and festivals. She is an active member of Music Teachers National Association and serves as Vice-President of Competitions for the New Hampshire chapter.

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). She has won prizes at national and international piano competitions in Europe such as Concours International d’Île-de-France, Concours de Chatou, Claude Kahn, U.F.A.M, and Young Artists Competition of Alès. In 2021, she was awarded a 1st prize at the American Protégé International Concerto Competition.

Mathilde Handelsman’s principal teachers are Menahem Pressler, John O’Conor, and Laurent Cabasso. She has also received recent guidance and mentorship from Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, 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 with a full scholarship and assistantship. In 2020, she graduated from the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Shenandoah Conservatory on a full-tuition scholarship.