

ABOUT THE PIANISTS

GERALD ROBBINS – www.geraldrobbins.com

“A pianist of authority and imagination. Versatile, secure in every respect, a spectacular technique.”

~ Los Angeles Times

Gerald Robbins has distinguished himself internationally as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician of poetic sensitivity and virtuosic technique. Since capturing a major prize at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 1969, he has performed regularly in the world's major music centers throughout Europe, Japan, and the United States. As a soloist accompanied by an orchestra, he has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Symphony and its affiliates, and Royal Liverpool Symphony under such conductors as Zubin Mehta, Neville Marriner, Edouard van Remoortel, Okku Kamu, Jorge Mester, and Lawrence Foster. In addition, Robbins' chamber music activities include collaborations with noted violinists Nathan Milstein, Pinchas Zukerman, Kyung-Wha Chung, Glenn Dicterow, and Ruggiero Ricci. Featured on numerous radio and television broadcasts, Robbins performed *Rhapsody in Blue* on the Emmy-award winning Gershwin TV special starring Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, and was the featured pianist on the soundtrack for the Academy Award-winning British film, *A Shocking Accident*. A champion of neglected romantic repertoire, Robbins' artistry on the London-Decca, Orion and Genesis labels include world-premiere recordings of concerti by Litolff and Reinecke. He is co-founder of the Lyric Piano Quartet and is a member of the chamber music faculty of the Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

NATASHA MARIN – www.natashamarin.com

“... balancing pianistic flair with musical intelligence, Marin's playing of the cadenza was a dazzling showstopper”

~ Crescenta Valley Weekly

"Natasha Marin was impressive ... Under her hands, she nearly pinned the audience to their seats with a fiery rendition of Chopin's scherzo"

~ Boulevard Sentinel

Russian-born Natasha Marin began studying piano at age 6 and was later accepted into the Special Music School for Gifted Children at the St. Petersburg State Conservatory. She earned her B.A. in piano performance from the conservatory's Rimsky-Korsakov Music College, graduating with honors, and later studied with Leonid Sintsev and Igor Lebedev. After moving to California, she attended UCLA where she studied piano with Vitaly Margulis and Professor Antoinette Perry, contemporary music with Grammy Award-winning pianist Gloria Cheng, and worked with acclaimed scholar/media author Robert Winter.

Currently, she performs classical genres (and non-classical repertoire) as a soloist and with piano duos, vocalists, and chamber ensembles. In addition to radio and television appearances, she has recorded and performed live at St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall in Russia, Comerica Theater in Phoenix, Gable Theater Stage in Coral Gables, Florida, Leo Bing Theater, Colburn School's Zipper Hall, and Thorne Hall in Los Angeles, and other U.S. and international venues.

Premiering June 2008 in Los Angeles, her piano duo "Double Sharp" with Maria Demina won the Grand Prize at a regional competition and appeared live and the radio nationwide. The program features music of Russian romantic and 20th-century composers, incorporating an innovative presentation with custom costumes by designer Vera DeFehr. "Double Sharp" has performed also at charity events like Robert Shapiro's Foundation and Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Foundation.

Together with French soprano Nicol Mecerova, Marin created "Voyage a Paris," program spanning 200 years of the French Art Song, which was presented in the US and Russia. She also performs with her husband actor/comedian Cheech Marin. The couple has appeared at the Hollywood Bowl, Valley Performing Arts Center of the California State University, Northridge, and Bonnaroo Festival in Manchester, Tennessee. She has also worked with Grammy Award-winning producer Peter Asher, playing piano on "Street Spirit (Fade Out)" for the album "Siren" by vocal duo Sasha and Shawna (Manhattan Records, 2007).