

Meet the Artist

Simone Dinnerstein is an American pianist. She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband and dog, less than a mile from the hospital in which she was born. Simone has a distinctive musical voice. The Washington Post has called her “an artist of strikingly original ideas and irrefutable integrity.” She first came to wider public attention in 2007 through her recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations, reflecting an aesthetic that was both deeply rooted in the score and profoundly idiosyncratic. She is, wrote The New York Times, “a unique voice in the forest of Bach interpretation.” Since that recording, she has had a busy performing career. She has played with orchestras ranging from the New York Philharmonic and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra to the London Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale Rai. She has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center to the Berlin Philharmonie, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Seoul Arts Center and the Sydney Opera House. She has made thirteen albums, all of which topped the Billboard classical charts, with repertoire ranging from Couperin to Glass.



This season, Simone takes on a number of new artistic challenges. She gives the world premiere of *The Eye Is the First Circle* at Montclair State University, the first multi-media production she has conceived, created, and directed, which uses as source materials her father Simon Dinnerstein’s painting *The Fulbright Triptych* and Charles Ives’s *Piano Sonata No. 2 (Concord)*. In addition, she premieres Richard Danielpour’s *An American Mosaic*, a tribute to those affected by the pandemic, in a performance on multiple pianos placed throughout Brooklyn’s Green-Wood Cemetery. She also joins Renée Fleming, the Emerson String Quartet, and Uma Thurman for performances of André Previn and Tom Stoppard’s *Penelope* at both Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. From 2020 to 2022, Simone releases a trilogy of albums recorded at her home in Brooklyn during the pandemic. *A Character of Quiet* (Orange Mountain Music, 2020), featuring the music of Philip Glass and Schubert, was described by NPR as, “music that speaks to a sense of the world slowing down,” and by The New Yorker as, “a reminder that quiet can contain multitudes.” Richard Danielpour’s *An American Mosaic* (Supertrain Records, 2021), surpassed two million streams on Apple Music and was nominated for a 2021 Grammy Award in the category of Best Classical Instrumental Solo. The final installment in the trilogy, *Undersong*, was released in January 2022 on Orange Mountain Music.

In recent years, Simone has created projects that express her broad musical interests. Following her recording of *Mozart in Havana*, she brought the Havana Lyceum Orchestra from Cuba to the United States for the very first time, raising the funding, booking the concerts, and organizing their housing and transport. Together, Simone and the orchestra played eleven concerts from Miami to Boston. Philip Glass composed his *Piano Concerto No. 3* for Simone, co-commissioned by twelve American and Canadian orchestras. She collaborated with choreographer Pam Tanowitz to create *New Work for Goldberg Variations*, which was met with widespread critical acclaim. Working with Renée Fleming and the Emerson String Quartet, she premiered André Previn and Tom Stoppard’s *Penelope* at the Tanglewood, Ravinia and Aspen music festivals. Most recently, she created her own string ensemble, *Baroklyn*, which she directs from the keyboard. Their performance of Bach’s cantata *Ich Habe Genug* in March 2020 was the last concert she gave before New York City shut down.

Simone is committed to giving concerts in non-traditional venues and to audiences who don’t often hear classical music. For the last three decades, she has played concerts throughout the United States for the Piatigorsky Foundation, an organization dedicated to the widespread dissemination of classical music. It was for the Piatigorsky Foundation that she gave the first piano recital in the Louisiana state prison system at the Avoyelles Correctional Center. She has also performed at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in a concert organized by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Simone founded *Neighborhood Classics* in 2009, a concert series open to the public and hosted by New York City Public Schools to raise funds for their music education programs. She also created a program called *Bachpacking* during which she takes a digital keyboard to elementary school classrooms, helping young children get close to the music she loves. She is a committed supporter and proud alumna of Philadelphia’s *Astral Artists*, which supports young performers. Simone counts herself fortunate to have studied with three unique artists: Solomon Mikowsky, Maria Curcio and Peter Serkin, very different musicians who shared the belief that playing the piano is a means to something greater. The Washington Post comments that “ultimately, it is Dinnerstein’s unreserved identification with every note she plays that makes her performance so spellbinding.” In a world where music is everywhere, she hopes that it can still be transformative.



2023 - 2024 Season

KEVIN HEKMATPANAH
MUSIC DIRECTOR

October 2, 2023 @ 7:30 pm

SIMONE DINNERSTEIN
PIANO SOLOIST



Schubert: Symphony No. 4 in C Minor, D 417 The Tragic
Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-Flat Major, Op. 83

Dinnerstein is an artist of strikingly original ideas and irrefutable integrity. These attributes, combined with elegance and grace, lend her music-making its captivating beauty.

~ The Washington Post



PROGRAM

SYMPHONY NO. 4 IN C MINOR, D 417 *THE TRAGIC*
ADAGIO MOLTO – ALLEGRO VIVACE
ANDANTE
MENUETTO ALLEGRO VIVACE
ALLEGRO

FRANZ SCHUBERT
(1797 - 1828)

INTERMISSION

PIANO CONCERTO NO. 2 IN B-FLAT MAJOR, OP. 83
ALLEGRO NON TROPPO
ALLEGRO APPASSIONATO
ANDANTE
ALLEGRETTO GRAZIOSO

JOHANNES BRAHMS
(1833 - 1897)

SIMONE DINNERSTEIN, PIANO SOLOIST

UPCOMING CONCERTS

December 4, 2023 @ 7:30 pm
Young Artists
Competition Winners



Berlioz: *Symphonie Fantastique*, Op. 14
Winners TBD

March 4, 2024 @ 7:30 pm
Kyung Sun Lee
Violin Soloist



Rossini
Overture to La Gazza Ladra
Wagner
Overture to Rienzi
Tchaikovsky
March Slav, Op. 31
Prokofiev
Violin Concerto No. 2

April 29, 2024 @ 7:30 pm
Pepe Romero
Guitar Soloist



Rachmaninoff: *Symphony No. 3 in A Minor*, Op. 44
Rodrigo: *Concierto de Aranjuez*

ORCHESTRA ROSTER

FIRST VIOLIN

Sofia Garcia Gahan, concertmaster
Keiran Boyle
Diana Costa
Emily Drake
Ashley Hansen
Kelsey Hollenbaugh
Kara Johnson
Shaun Kelly
Christina Kieu
Alaina Linnell
Cole Merrill
Cindy Metz
Krista Poffenroth

SECOND VIOLIN

Carrie Samsen, principal
Laura Athearn
Charlie Biechler
Isabela Butler
Monse Eckert-Mariscal
Lillias Estell
Emily Gesing
Adrianna Loomis
Brooke Perez
Natasha Trivitt

VIOLA

Mackenzie Harris, principal
Maria Baranova
Laura Carder
Dennis Davenport
Cassandra Jabbora
Monica Manly
Kevin McGann
Gabe Meier
Alyssa Poffenroth

CELLO

Cathy Brown, principal
Caroline Bickford
Jonell Block
Olivia Caputo
Kathleen Czoski
Nora Fassler
Noelle Grant
Michele Jeglum
Michelle Johnson
Lindsey Kornowske
Nataly Mendoza
Doug Nye
Nina Peterson
Bella Vaughn
Ray Womack

BASS

Haley Croom, principal
Ben Hargreaves

FLUTE

Jordan Gravatt, principal
Michelle Ghrist

OBOE

Katie Hadley Morgan, principal
Sheila Armstrong

CLARINET

Grace Applegate, principal
Christina Woll
Sara Whelchel

BASSOON

Lynne Feller-Marshall, principal
Javier Rodriguez

HORN

Brent Allen, principal
Steve Getman
Paul Manly
Mike Graef

TRUMPET

Samuel Morozov, principal
Isadora White

TIMPANI

Paul Raymond

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