

ShiZ'ka Piano Concerts

PROGRAM SELECTIONS

ARTIST WEBSITE: SHIZKAPIANIST.COM

CONTACT: [DMARSA@DENISEMARSA PRODUCTIONS.COM](mailto:DMARSA@DENISEMARSAPRODUCTIONS.COM)

(212) 243-4893



DENISEMARSA
PRODUCTIONS

It's time to discover **ShiZ'ka**

"This is a refreshing brace of Scarlatti Sonatas... ShiZ'ka has a resonance with Scarlatti's style...the order of the sonatas works beautifully. Her disciplined prestidigitation is perfectly in place."

- International Piano

ShiZ'ka's Debut Release **14 Scarlatti Sonatas**

Selections recently featured
on Classical WQXR, New York

KÉZE RECORDS ~
Where Talent & Style Thrive



SHIZKAPIANIST.COM



ABOUT SHIZ'KA

Shizuka "ShiZ'ka" Saeki-Arkus is a classical pianist who began playing at age 4. She studied with renowned Japanese teachers, **Toshimi Sakou**, **Keita Kosaka**, **Makoto Yamahata**, and **Mako Okamoto**, before she built up her reputation as an exciting and nuanced performer. Her talents have taken her throughout Japan and the United States.

At the age of 17, **ShiZ'ka** was a finalist in the Japan Classical Music Society competition. In college, she studied at Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts, supplementing her classical training with studies in jazz. While living in Japan she studied with famed jazz pianist **Makoto Takenaka** and **Yoko Yamamoto**, as well as studying at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Recent performance venues have included the **Mount Sinai Guggenheim Atrium**, **Third Street Music School Settlement**, and **Tenri Cultural Institute**. Her most recent album "**Scarlatti Sonatas**," was released in December 2018, and is now available on iTunes, Amazon Music, YouTube, and Spotify. ShiZ'ka chose fourteen of her personal favorite Scarlatti's Sonatas to feature on the CD. SCARLATTI SONATAS has recently been featured on WQXR and WWFM, NYC.

In 2013 **ShiZ'ka** moved to New York City where she resides with her son Emil and her husband, Edmund Arkus.

INTERNATIONAL PIANO, LONDON REVIEW:

*"THIS IS A REFRESHING BRACE OF
SCARLATTI SONATAS. THE ORDER
OF THE SONATAS WORKS BEAUTI-
FULLY. THERE IS NO DOUBTING
THAT SHIZ'KA HAS A RESONANCE
WITH SCARLATTI'S STYLE. THE
PLAYING IS ELEVATING."*

"Brilliance and Fervor"

Beethoven, Rachmaninov, Scarlatti & More

Three Sonatas		Domenico Scarlatti
	K118 D major K523 G major K57 B flat major	
Piano Sonata in F major Op.54		L.V. Beethoven
	1. In Tempo d'un Minuetto 2. Allegretto	
Ballade No.4 in f minor Op.52		Fredric Chopin
	-Intermission-	
Moments Musicaux	E flat minor B minor E minor	Sergei Rachmaninov
Sonata in d minor Op.14		Serge Prokofiev
	1. Allegro, ma non troppo 2. Allegro marcato 3. Andante 4. Vivace	

About the Works & Composers:

Sonatas (Domenico Scarlatti):

Italian harpsichordist, Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757), was employed over a twenty-five-year period by the royal families of Spain and Portugal. He eventually wrote five hundred and fifty-five Sonatas which he titled "Exercises".

Piano Sonata Op.54 (Beethoven):

The F major sonata op.54 is often considered an insignificant sonata that was composed between the great "Waldstein" Op.53 and "The Appassionata" Op.54 instead of the true masterpiece it is. The first movement is a minuet that has two contrasting motives opposing each other until the tender, almost mournful, end. The second movement is a perpetual motion that continues excitingly all the way to the ending coda that bursts into an even more speedy and exciting end.

Ballade Op.52 (Chopin):

The 4th ballade was composed in 1842, seven years before Chopin's death at 39 years old. It is dedicated to Baroness Rothschild who invited him to perform at her residence in Paris. The work develops from its quiet, beautiful melodic lines, through gradual improvisational variations, into more and more brilliant and intense moods. The coda forcefully brings the work to a powerful and brilliant close.

Moments Musicaux (Rachmaninov):

After the first performance of his first symphony in 1897 received very negative criticism, Sergei Rachmaninov's creative output nearly came to a halt as he entered almost four years of depression. He went into hypnotherapy in Paris which helped him to re-continue his work resulting in the second piano concerto and great success. The second piano concerto was dedicated to his therapist, Dr Dahl. The 6 Moments Musicaux were written within this critical period and display similar writing techniques as in the concerto. The emotions exuding from the pieces carry a deep sadness, yearning, excitement and beauty that the composer is now known for in his work.

Piano Sonata Op.14 (Prokofiev):

The second piano Sonata is written in 4 movements, typical of the classical style. It was premiered in Moscow in 1914 with the composer performing. Prokofiev dedicated the work to his friend and fellow student at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Maximilian Schmidthof, who committed suicide in 1913. The music displays a well-developed creative style, expressing sarcasm, sardonic beauty, dramatic dissonance and brilliant passage-work.