

Long Bio – 899

Steinway Artist Rebecca Penneys is a recitalist, chamber musician, orchestral soloist, educator, and adjudicator. For almost eight decades she has been hailed as a pianist of prodigious talent. Her performance and teaching CDs, DVDs, and HD videos are available online and on all streaming platforms.

Rebecca has concertized throughout all the continents north of Antarctica and in 2021 was inducted into The Steinway Teacher Hall of Fame in New York City. She possesses a daredevil technique, a charismatic stage presence, and a rare gift for interpretation. She is a popular guest artist, keynote speaker, and pedagogue nationally and internationally. Her current and former students include prizewinners in international competitions and hold important teaching posts on every continent.

Currently, she is Professor Emerita of Piano at Eastman School of Music where she taught a class of international students at for 37 years (1980-2017) and she continues regular visits to Rochester, as co-founder-pianist of a popular 5-concert piano chamber music series, *The Salon Trio Series*, now in its 30th season. Rebecca started and still directs the *Eastman Piano Series at the Summit* now in its 17th year which provides 15 recital dates every academic year to help Eastman piano majors have additional performance opportunities.

Rebecca devoted 34 consecutive summers to the Chautauqua Institution, teaching, performing, and developing their piano and chamber music areas. Her artist residency there began in 1978, when she launched their chamber music program. Her trio, The New Arts Trio, two-time winner of the Naumburg Award, was *Trio-in-Residence* from 1978-2012, and Rebecca was piano chair from 1985-2012. The endowed *Penneys Garden 2008*, in honor of her parents, along with *Piano Lovers Patio* are part of her rich legacy and many gifts to that institution.

New legacy projects are flourishing in Florida: the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival for collegiate pianists was founded in 2013. It is tuition free and held every summer from June 27-July 17 at USF. Every summer the festival has over 250 applications from about 25 countries for just 40 spaces. RPPF is entirely donor-supported by Rebecca Penneys Piano Friends of Piano, a non-profit 501(c)(3), *The RPPF Satellite Series* promotes festival students in concert during the summer and academic year.

The *Rebecca Penneys USF Music Fund* and *RP Graduate Collective* started in 2021 is a much-appreciated venture providing two-year tuition free assistantships to select graduate performance majors who study at USF and perform chamber music throughout the Tampa Bay Area.

In 2015 she was appointed *Courtesy-Steinway-Artist-in-Residence* at the University of South Florida, Tampa. For almost 20 years she directed the *SPC Piano Series* at Gibbs campus bringing world-class pianists to St Petersburg. The series ended during the pandemic in 2020.

Rebecca made her recital debut at age 9 and performed as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra when she was 11. At 17, after winning many young artist competitions in the USA, she was awarded the unprecedented Special Critics' Prize at the Seventh International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, an award created in her honor. Additionally, she won the Most Outstanding Musician Prize at the Fifth Vianna Da Motta International Piano Competition (Portugal) 1970 and was top prizewinner in the Second Paloma O'Shea International Piano Competition (Spain) 1975. She made her New York Debut in Alice Tully Hall in 1972. In 1974, she founded the acclaimed New Arts Trio, which twice won the prestigious Naumburg Award for Chamber Music, 1980 and 1982. The Trio made two USIS Cultural State Department tours of Europe 1983, 1986. Rebecca made a solo USIS State Department tour of Japan in 1980. Between 1974 and 2009 she made a minimum of two annual month-long trips abroad performing and teaching in major cities of the world. Her artistry and insight have won her a large and loyal following.

Rebecca has held appointments at the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston Salem, NC, 1972-1974 and Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in Milwaukee, WI, 1974-1980 where she was Piano Chair. She was Visiting Professor at Indiana University for one semester (1980-1981) as György Sebők's sabbatical replacement. Rebecca's teachers include Aube Tzerko, Leonard Stein, Rosina Lhevinne, Artur Rubinstein, Menahem Pressler, György Sebők, Janos Starker, Josef Gingold, and Iannis Xenakis. She has been recognized for her ability to teach a natural keyboard technique, *Motion & Emotion*, that allows pianists to achieve performance goals and handle stress without physical strain or injury. She has taught and performed in such summer festivals as Adamant Music School, PianoTexas, Eastern Music Festival, Sitka, Marlboro, Woodstock, Aspen, Vermont Mozart, Montreal, Tel Hai Israel, Tibor Varga, Birch Creek, International Music, Shawnigan Johannesen, Peninsula, Roycroft, Mammoth Lakes, Southeastern Piano Festival, Bay PianoFest and Music Mountain.

Rebecca has more than a dozen current CDs on Fleur De Son Classics, Naxos and Centaur Records. as well as many performance videos on YouTube that include interviews and personal comments. A recent performance and teaching HD Video of Chopin Op. 25 and a mix of Brahms and Beethoven is on YouTube and all streaming platforms. "*Chicken Soup for Pianists*," a virtual book made during the 2020 pandemic is available on Kindle and Apple Books.

To learn more about Rebecca visit: rebeccapenneys.com rebeccapenneyspianofestival.org [YouTube](#) and [RebeccaPenneysGraduateCollective](#)

"Penneys offers an extraordinary collection of performances displaying an astonishing control over piano sound. It is absolutely gorgeous, and full of unimaginable colors. She sings through the instrument, seemingly without effort. Her playing is simply revelatory." — American Record Guide