

IRENA KOFMAN (USA)

Florida Atlantic University (Boca Raton, Florida)



The renowned Russian-American pianist holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Miami, where she studied under Dr. Rosalina Sackstein, a pupil of the legendary Claudio Arrau. After founding the Arcangelo Piano Quartet—a distinguished American chamber ensemble—Dr. Kofman toured Guatemala, China, the Bahamas and the United States, all to rave reviews. In the words of critic Lawrence Budmen, “Kofman was brilliant in her phrasing and control. The entire performance had a unique sense of deeply felt, highly personal music making.” Later, Dr. Kofman formed a duo with the eminent Belgian pianist André De Groote. Their three recorded albums received critical acclaim. MusicWeb International critic Philip R. Buttall noted, “The performance... is absolutely first-rate.” Dr. Kofman continues to collaborate with other outstanding musicians, such as Japanese violinist Junko Ohtsu. As a solo artist, Dr. Kofman has performed in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Italy, Poland, Serbia, the Bahamas, Guatemala, China, Japan and Curacao. Among other honors, she played before the Dalai Lama at his “Compassion as a Pillar of World Peace” presentation and at TEDxBocaRaton. She has critically acclaimed recordings on Wisdom Recordings, Loconto Production, and Talent Records. Dr. Kofman is an award-winning teacher. For four consecutive years she received a Diploma of Recognition from the American Protégé International Competition for “extraordinary dedication and achievement in the field of teaching music and presenting students to perform at Carnegie Hall.” Many of Dr. Kofman’s former piano students are distinguished performers and educators throughout the Americas, former Soviet Union, and Europe. Dr. Kofman is a recipient of the Faculty Fellowship Program to Israel (2020), a distinguished member of the Cremona International Academy faculty in Italy and Director of Keyboard Studies at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, USA.

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Music and Prayer

2020. A hard, unexpected strike from Covid-19 left us locked in our homes, afraid of getting sick, scared of dying. Prayer and music became my most powerful tools to embrace challenge. They spoke to my heart and mind like no other communication. A desire to share prayerful musical offerings rose in me and became urgent. That is how and why this collection of Christian hymn arrangements for piano was born. I wish to thank my friends and listeners, both religious and non-religious, as we are all together in spirit. Let us stay united because together we deliver hope, bring goodness, and create a beautiful world! Let each of us rise to the opportunity to lead in spirit and heart!

