

Laura Kargul pianist

Laura Kargul has concertized as a soloist and chamber musician for over 30 years, having performed to critical acclaim in venues across Europe and the United States. Her 1985 debut in Europe was an immediate triumph, hailed by the *Rotterdams Nieuwsblad* as “one of the most remarkable debut recitals recently given in our country.” The following year she played at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and earned immediate recognition as “a world class pianist: This is playing that belongs on our great concert stages.... almost feverishly inspired, so controlled and so thrilling” (*Haagsche Courant*, The Hague). Subsequent solo tours included concerts in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Serbia, Switzerland and the West Indies. As a guest of numerous international music festivals, Kargul has appeared as a soloist at the Schleswig-Holstein, Nordhessen, and Eisenacher Summer Music Festivals in Germany and the Lesvos Arts Festival in Greece. She has recorded for radio in France, Germany and the Netherlands, as well as for PBS radio and national television in the United States.

A noted Liszt interpreter, Laura Kargul is one of very few artists ever invited to perform a full recital on Liszt's own Bechstein piano at the Liszt-Haus in Weimar, Germany. “Franz Liszt wanted everything from the piano. Laura Kargul is up to the task.... she seems to dissolve, absorbed by the music, floating through the most treacherous passages with elegance.” (*Hessische/Niedersächsische Allgemeine*, Kassel, Germany). Her solo CD with performances of Liszt's virtuoso transcriptions, *Liszt and Ravel: Transcriptions for Piano*, was recorded and produced by Grammy winner Bob Ludwig of Gateway Mastering.

Kargul's collaborative work includes performances with ensembles such as the Portland String Quartet, the Lark String Quartet, the Da Ponte String Quartet and the Michigan Chamber Strings, in venues such as the Ordway Music Theater in St. Paul, the Aspen Music Festival, Music Mountain in Connecticut, the Evian Music Festival in France and the Opera Theater and Music Festival of Lucca in Italy. She began her duo collaboration with violinist Ronald Lantz in 2010.

Kargul has served as Director of Keyboard Studies at the USM School of Music since 1989. Her students have won numerous competitions, as well as scholarship offers to graduate programs at institutions such as the Indiana University School of Music, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, the University of Michigan, Peabody Conservatory, the University of Maryland, Butler University, Boston University, The Boston Conservatory, and the Eastman School of Music. As a specialist in healthy solutions to the physical challenges of piano playing, she has lectured, adjudicated and presented master classes at the national and international conferences of the European Piano Teachers Association, the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Association and the National Music Teachers Association in the US. With Ronald Lantz she has also presented workshops and lectures on the art of collaborative performance.

Kargul holds a doctorate (DMA) in piano performance from the University of Michigan School of Music, where she studied with pianists Theodore Lettvin and Leon Fleisher, and also served as an assistant to conductor Gustav Meier. She coached chamber music with pianist Eugene Bossart, violinist Paul Makanowitzky, 'cellist Samuel Mayes and clarinetist David Shifrin. While in residence at the Aspen Music Festival with the Lark Quartet she worked with Joseph Kalichstein and John Perry.