

# *EStrella Piano Duo*

## PRESS KIT 2024-25

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Critically acclaimed as “superb“, “breathtaking“ and “astonishing“, the EStrella Piano Duo has delighted audiences throughout the United States, Canada and China with their concerts of masterpieces for piano duo, transcriptions of orchestral works and fascinating little-known gems, always accompanied by story-telling.

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# *EStrella Piano Duo*



The EStrella Piano Duo burst onto the musical scene in 2011 with a series of concerts celebrating the great Russian masterpieces for piano duet. Their first performance evoked raves of “technical brilliance” and “infectious joy in music making”. The second drew a standing-room-only crowd. Since then, they have performed widely to enthusiastic audiences and critical acclaim throughout the US, Canada and China.

In 2018 the Duo was awarded a Global Music Award Silver medal for their critically acclaimed CD, *Tales from the East*, featuring stories of adventure, magic and romance by Russian composers. In 2019 the CD was awarded an Honorable Mention by The American Prize Competition. When the Pandemic made in-person concerts impossible, EStrella created concert videos and movies for their audiences hungry for new musical experiences. In 2022, a collaboration with North Shore Chamber Orchestra (Evanston, IL) led to a critically acclaimed performance of a rarely heard concerto for piano / four hands by Leopold Koželuch. During the same year, the Duo became the recipient of a grant from Musicians Club of Women to record music for piano / four hands by women composers of the Romantic Era which led to *In Her Own Voice*, the Duo's latest album, premiered on Chicago's WFMT.

EStrella's repertoire includes, besides the usual favorites, many rarely-heard, fascinating works that most duos fear to touch. Their programs are always musically profound, but also virtuosic, often acrobatic, and occasionally humorous, always with introductions which draw the listeners into the music. Elena Doubovitskaya and Svetlana Belsky are accomplished pianists in their own right. Between the two, they have been heard throughout Europe, Asia and the United States. Their concert credits include Carnegie (Weill) Hall, Kiev Philharmonic Hall, Chicago Symphony Center, St. Petersburg Rimsky-Korsakoff Museum, Baptist University of Hong Kong, Ravinia and Tanglewood Music Festivals, among many others. Critics praise them for “marvelous and extraordinary playing” and “confidence and élan”. Elena and Svetlana are also accomplished teachers, who enjoy sharing their love for music with new generations of pianists.

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# *EStrella Piano Duo*

## Critics Write



WEBSITE

..."superb"

"Svetlana Belsky and Elena Doubovitskaya are superb pianists on their own; together as the EStrella Piano Duo, they are doubly superb."

-John Puccio, Classical Candor

..."special"

"Right from the first tracks, this is a special release."

-Harrington, American Record Guide,  
May/June 2019

..."astonishing"

"The rapport between Belsky and Doubovitskaya is utterly remarkable. ... The achievement of conveying such busy textures in such an exciting way and yet remaining clarity throughout is astonishing."

-Colin Clarke, Fanfare Magazine

Read more...

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# *EStrella Piano Duo*

## Notable Past Performances

- 2014 University of Chicago - *Watershed Project* with Clinard Dance (*The Rite of Spring*)
- 2016 Peking University (Beijing, China), in collaboration with Clinard Dance and Peking University students
- 2016 Yangzhou Concert Hall (Yangzhou, China)
- 2017 Hudson Chamber Music Series (Quebec, Canada)
- 2023 Harris Theater, in collaboration with Ballet Chicago
- 2023 WFMT-FM Chicago, CD release (*In Her Own Voice*)



**Selected Concert and Chamber Music Series:** the German Society of Pennsylvania (PA), Heritage Museum (MI), Fort Atkinson (WI), Tuesday's Music Live (GA), Meadow Lakes Community Concerts (NJ), Friday's Musicale (FL), Heritage Hunt Concert Series (VA)

**Selected College and University Concert Series:** Northwestern University (IL), University of Chicago (IL), Carthage College (WI), Northeastern University (IL), Kalamazoo College (MI), Hunter College (NY), Montclair State University (NJ), Grinnell College (IA)

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# *EStrella Piano Duo*

## Selected Masterclasses

Dr. Doubovitskaya and Dr. Belsky are accomplished teachers, who enjoy sharing their love for music with new generations of pianists. They have taught dozens of masterclasses individually and as a Duo, working with piano ensembles and solo performers.



2014

Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University

2015

Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University

2016

Hunter College

Peking University (Beijing, China)

Kalamazoo College

2022

Northwestern University, Duo Piano Festival

2023

Carthage College

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# *EStrella Piano Duo*

## Suggested Programs for 2025-26

A Celebration of American Music, in time for the centennial of the *Rhapsody in Blue*

From Foreign Lands and People: a Musical Journey

In Her Own Voice: the Music of Women Composers

Ukrainian Music and Culture



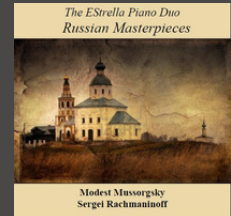
## Discography



*In Her Own Voice*  
Music by Women Composers  
of the Romantic Era



*Tales from the East*  
Stories of Romance, Adventure  
and Magic by Russian  
Composers



*Russian Masterpieces*  
Works by Rachmaninoff  
and Mussorgsky for one and  
two pianos



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