

PLEASE NOTE: ONE OF THESE CDS CONSTITUTES  
SPECIAL PROGRAMMING FOR MOZART'S 250<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY ON JANUARY 27, 2006



For immediate release

LERA AUERBACH PERFORMS  
IN TWO NEWLY-RELEASED CDS  
FEATURING UNUSUAL REPERTORY:  
*TOLSTOY'S WALTZ* (WITH WORKS BY WRITERS  
TOLSTOY AND PASTERNAK, IMPRESARIO DIAGHILEV,  
CHOREOGRAPHER BALANCHINE, AND OTHERS) AND  
*AUERBACH PLAYS MOZART:  
COMPLETE KEYBOARD WORKS FROM AGES 5 TO 9*

Lera Auerbach, who is also one of the foremost composers of her generation, is featured as pianist in two newly-released CDs, both comprising rarely-heard repertory: *Auerbach Plays Mozart: Complete Keyboard Works From Ages 5 To 9* (Arabesque Z6795) and *Tolstoy's Waltz* (BIS CD-1502).

The Mozart CD – released in advance of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's birth, on January 27, 2006 – includes 49 bands – one to ten of pieces from Nannerl's Notebook (1761-1763), and 11 to 49 of the London Notebook (1764-1765).

Mozart's father, Leopold, wrote about his eight-year-old son, saying that the boy knew "what one would expect only from a man of forty!" Mozart, of course, never lived to see his 36<sup>th</sup> year.

As Michael White writes in the album's liner notes, "Perhaps the most fascinating discovery is that many of the chromatic twists, repeated note patterns, and cadential formulas found here keep reappearing throughout all of Mozart's mature composition! We are immediately reminded that with no other composer do we find juvenilia of such undeniable quality and loveliness." The London Notebook, Dr. White writes, "...is actually a group of 39 short pieces for keyboard... the boy imitated every conceivable type of operatic genre from overture, interlude, and procession, to recitative, aria and ensemble... It is remarkable that the eight-year-old child could distinguish so clearly between the two contrasting styles of opera buffa (comic) and opera seria (tragic). For example, KV15a

(track 11) could be an early attempt at the ‘Turkish’ overture we find in the later masterpiece, ‘The Abduction from the Seraglio.’ The first eight bars of KV15d (track 14) anticipate the charming folk songs of Papageno from ‘The Magic Flute.’ KV15p (track 24) could be a primitive version of a ‘rage’ aria from the great opera seria ‘Idomeneo.’ KV15kk (track 44), a lovely example of J. C. Bach’s famous ‘dream adagio’ style, could be envisaged as a ‘Practice’ aria for the Countess in ‘The Marriage of Figaro.’”

*Tolstoy’s Waltz*, which also features Chiyuki Urano, baritone, includes the works of eight Russian artists whose reputations were earned in areas other than music, but whose musicianship were on a high level: writers Alexander Griboyedov and Vladimir Odoyevsky and painter Pavel Fedotov, of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; novelist Leo Tolstoy and painter Vasily Polenov, of the second half of the same century; impresario Sergei Diaghilev, late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; poet Boris Pasternak and choreographer George Balanchine, of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The CD’s contents include Leo Tolstoy’s *Waltz in F minor*; Alexander Griboyedov’s *Waltzes in A-flat Major and e minor*; Boris Pasternak’s *Prelude in e-flat minor*, *Prelude in g sharp minor* and *Piano Sonata*; Vladimir Odoevsky’s *Sentimental Waltz*, *Canon*, *Lullaby*, and *Waltz in g minor*; Vasily Polenov’s *Farewell Song*, *My Soul is Dark* (text: Lord Byron/Mikhail Lermontov), and *To the Sea* (text: Alexander Pushkin); Pavel Fedotov’s *My Darling* and *The Little Cuckoo* (both with texts by the composer); Sergei Diaghilev’s *Do You Remember, Maria?* (text: Alexander Tolstoy) and George Balanchine’s *Valse Lente*.

#### About Lera Auerbach

One of the most widely performed composers of her generation, Lera Auerbach is the youngest author (at age 31) on the roster of Hamburg’s prestigious international music publishing company Hans Sikorski, home to Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Schnittke, Gubaidulina and Kancheli. A virtuoso performer, Lera Auerbach continues the great tradition of pianist-composers of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Her original compositions have been commissioned and performed by Gidon Kremer, the Royal Danish Ballet, David Finckel, Wu Han, Hamburg Ballet, Vadim Gluzman, Akiko Suwanai, Philippe Quint, Kremerata Baltica, and Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, among many others. She has appeared as solo pianist at such prestigious venues as Moscow’s Bolshoi Hall, Tokyo’s Opera City, New York’s Lincoln Center, Munich’s Herkulessaal, Oslo’s Konzerthaus, Chicago’s Symphony Hall and Washington’s Kennedy Center. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2002 performing her *Suite for Violin, Piano and Orchestra* with Gidon Kremer and the Kremerata Baltica. Ms. Auerbach’s music has been presented at Carnegie Hall each season since then. In 2005, Lera Auerbach was awarded the prestigious Hindemith Prize by Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Germany.

Born in Chelyabinsk, a city in the Urals bordering Siberia, Lera Auerbach became one of the very last artists to defect the Soviet Union during a concert tour in 1991, while still in her teens. She subsequently earned Bachelor and Master’s degrees from The Juilliard

School where she studied piano with Joseph Kalichstein and composition with Milton Babbitt and Robert Beaser. In 2002, she graduated from the prestigious piano soloist program of the Hannover Hochschule für Musik where she studied with Einar-Steen Nøkleberg.

In 2000 and 2004, Ms. Auerbach was invited by the International Johannes Brahms Foundation to live and work at the composer's former home in Baden-Baden as the artist-in-residence. In 2001, at the invitation of Gidon Kremer, she was composer-in-residence and guest artist at the Lockenhaus Festival in Austria, where twelve of her works were premiered. Ms. Auerbach is currently composer-in-residence with the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa in Japan and the American Youth Symphony in Los Angeles.

Lera Auerbach's recognition extends not only to her musical activities but also to her writing. In 1996, she was named Poet of the Year by the International Pushkin Society. Her literary works include five volumes of poetry and prose and numerous contributions to Russian-language literary newspapers and magazines. Her poetry has been taught in high schools and universities in Russia as a required reading for modern literature courses.

A prolific recording artist, she has recorded for BIS Records in Europe, Arabesque Recordings in America and King Records in Japan.

Celebrating the 200th birthday of Hans Christian Andersen, Lera Auerbach and American-born choreographer John Neumeier created a three-act ballet based on Andersen's fairytale, "The Little Mermaid." The ballet was commissioned by the Royal Danish Ballet for the opening of the first ballet season in the new opera theater in Copenhagen and for the Andersen bicentennial. The premier took place on April 15, 2005, at the new Copenhagen Opera House, and received such great critical acclaim that the ballet was soon revived for a four-week run.

Lera Auerbach has been named the Composer in Residence of the City of Bremen in Germany from October 2005 to October 2006. As part of the MusikFest Bremen celebration this past September, Auerbach's new work "Dialogues on Stabat Mater after Pergolesi," for violin, viola, vibraphone and chamber orchestra, was premiered by Gidon Kremer (violin) and Ula Uljona (viola) with the Kremerata Baltica. The work was co-commissioned by MusikFest Bremen and Lucerne Festival, where it received its Swiss premiere two days later.

Also, in September 2005, Auerbach was the first composer to receive the 2005 Förderpreis Deutschlandfunk, a coveted prize presented by German National Radio to highly talented artists of the new generation.

During the 2005-06 season, Lera Auerbach will perform piano recitals in Germany, France and the U. S., as well as a concert tour of Ecuador.

Ms. Auerbach's new commissions this season include two orchestral works for BremenFest; Quartet No. 2 for the Petersen String Quartet; Quartet No. 3, "Primera Luz," for the Tokyo String Quartet; Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano for Vadim Gluzman, commissioned by Arizona Friends of Chamber Music; a piano quintet for the Aspen Music

**Festival; and a Concerto for Quartet and Orchestra by the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra.**

**Upcoming new CDs of works by Lera Auerbach include:**

**- Auerbach: "Preludes and Dreams" (24 Preludes for Piano, 10 Dreams, Chorale Fugue and Postlude for Piano), performed by Ms. Auerbach; BIS, 2006)**

**- Auerbach: Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2; Suite for a Lonely Violinist, Vadim Gluzman, violin; Angela Yoffe, piano (BIS, 2006)**

**- Schnittke: Complete Piano Music, performed by Lera Auerbach (BIS)**

**- Valentin Alkan - Piano Transcriptions (world premiere recording), performed by Lera Auerbach (King Records, Japan)**

**- Recordings for Deutschlandfunk Radio throughout this season (Ms. Auerbach is Artist-in-Residence)**

**- Auerbach - String Quartet No. 2, and Auerbach's transcriptions of Shostakovich's Five Poems of Marina Tzvetaya, commissioned by Les Muséiques Festival Basel and NDR Hamburg, performed by Petersen String Quartet (Capriccio label)**

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<p><b>NOT FOR PUBLICATION: For additional information, interview access, or photographs, please contact Nancy Shear Arts Services, Press Representatives, Tel: 212/496-9418, <a href="mailto:sheararts@aol.com">sheararts@aol.com</a>, <a href="http://www.nancyshear.com">www.nancyshear.com</a></b></p>
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