

Dudana Mazmanishvili, piano

Dudana Mazmanishvili, 27, comes from Tbilisi, Georgia. Tamar Apakidze, her mother and also herself a very serious and talented pianist, taught her from age 3 to 17. In 1998,



Dudana moved to Munich to study with the renowned Elisso Virsaladze (a fellow Georgian) at the Hochschule für Musik und Theatre for almost seven years. She has just graduated from New York's Mannes College of Music, where she worked with the American pianist Jerome Rose (whose teacher was Leonard Shure, Artur Schnabel's disciple and assistant). During her stay in this country she won

the 2005 Washington International Piano Competition and the Nicolai Rubinstein International in Paris. She was also a recipient of the Nadia Reisenberg Memorial Award, which led to a Merkin Hall debut last November. Her superb pianism strikes a rare balance between the characteristic virtuosity and showmanship of the Russian School and the Teutonic intellectual discipline one also expects from a born-to-the-manner classicist. Her formidable "chops" and lyrical, singing tone easily measure up to the crowd-pleasing bravura of the Liszt Transcendental Etudes, Opera Paraphrases, Hungarian Rhapsodies, and knucklebreakers such as Balakirev's *Islamey* and the Prokofiev Toccata. Conversely, she functions easily and naturally in her favorite composer, Bach, as well as in the works of Beethoven, Mozart, Schumann, and Schubert.