



REFLECTIONS

*Avery Gagliano*

PIANO WORKS BY

Chopin, Haydn, Schumann, Adès



STEINWAY & SONS

When I realized I was about to record my first album, I was overwhelmed – overwhelmed by the fact that this was a step into a world of permanence and perpetuity. I looked up at the mountain of piano literature that I was attempting to climb and felt miniscule. What to record? Where was the best place to find a footing and start a path upward? As I pondered these questions, I was slowly but surely drawn to the pieces you will hear on this album. In fact, it felt as though the pieces were drawn to me, finding their way into my consciousness as though it was inevitable.

Each piece on this album is one I've learned and matured with throughout different stages of my life. Some are pieces learned early on. For example, I learned the Schumann *Abegg Variations* when I was thirteen and studying with Marina Alekseyeva, my primary teacher before entering The Curtis Institute of Music. I performed it at the first summer festival I ever attended, and played it for my audition to Curtis. I've continued playing it since, returning each time with a new perspective on an old friendship. After all this time living with *Abegg*, I wonder at how the piece never ceases to delight and captivate.

Other pieces on the album, such as the Chopin selections, are newer to me, but I have experienced equally powerful growth with them, just over a shorter period of time. Together, these works by Chopin, Haydn, Schumann, and Adès all carry the imprint of various important milestones that have propelled my journey forward as a pianist.

Looking at the music on this album takes me to a place of deep reflection – reflection on the people and moments that led to my conception of the music as it exists in these recordings. There is also another form of reflection at play – a reflection of myself. In this music, I see the musician I am today melded with the memory of the girl I once was, and hinting, perhaps, at the future I might have.

Reflecting back on the wonderful journey I've enjoyed with these pieces, the story would be incomplete without properly thanking my teacher of eight years, Marina Alekseyeva, and my teachers at Curtis throughout the past five years, Jonathan Biss, Gary Graffman, and Robert McDonald. To each of them, I will always hold the deepest admiration and gratitude. They have each played formative roles in my development as a musician, and I would not be the pianist I am today without their dedication, wisdom, inspiration, generosity, and most importantly, their incredible love toward me and for music.

I invite you to follow my reflections from the past into the future, and hope the music leads you to your own reflections now and in years to come.

– Avery Gagliano



# Avery Gagliano

Avery Gagliano, First Prize and Best Concerto Prize winner of the 2020 10th National Chopin Piano Competition, is a young artist who captures audiences with her sensitivity, emotional depth, and musical expression. Her success has taken her to stages and concert venues such as the Verbier Festival Academy, Ravinia Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris, Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Chicago's Millennium Park, WQXR Greene Space, WRTI Performance Studio, and the GRAMMY Salute to Classical Music at Carnegie Hall.

As a soloist, Avery has collaborated with several symphonies in the United States including the Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra, Tuscarawas Philharmonic, MostArts Festival Orchestra, Capital City Symphony, National Chamber Ensemble, and most recently, the Oregon Mozart Players. She is also an avid chamber musician and will return as a guest artist with the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players in 2021.

Avery received the Audience Prize at the 2019 Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition, was the first-prize winner of the Aspen Music Festival Concerto Competition and the MostArts Festival Piano Competition, and is a winner of 2019 National YoungArts Competition. She is an alumna of the 2019 Verbier Festival & Academy and the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, a four-year winner of the US Chopin Foundation Scholarship, a nominated recipient of the Inaugural Outstanding Young Artist Achievement Award by the National Chamber Ensemble, and has made several appearances on the National Public Radio's (NPR) *From The Top*.

Avery is originally from Washington, D.C., where she studied with Marina Alekseyeva. Avery currently resides in Philadelphia and studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with Gary Graffman and Robert McDonald; she has also studied with Jonathan Biss while at Curtis.

## REFLECTIONS

Recorded September - November, 2020

at Steinway Hall, New York City.

Producer: Jon Feidner

Engineer: Lauren Sclafani

Assistant Engineer: Melody Nieun Hwang

Production Assistant: Renée Oakford

Mixing and Mastering: Daniel Shores

Equipment: Pyramix using Merging Technologies Horus Converters;  
mixed and mastered through Merging Technologies Horus Converter

Microphones: DPA 4006A, Schoeps MC6/MK2

Executive Producer: Jon Feidner

Art Direction: Jackie Fugere

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Photos of Avery Gagliano: Chris Lee

Piano Technician: Lauren Sclafani

Piano: Steinway Model D # 607799 (New York)

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piano

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FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

Sonata No. 62 in E flat major, H 16 No. 52

1 I. Allegro 8:36

2 II. Adagio 6:34

3 III. Presto 5:57

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

4 Nocturne in B major, Op. 62 No. 1 7:45

ROBERT SCHUMANN

5 Abegg Variations, Op. 1 8:01

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

Three Mazurkas, Op. 56

6 No. 1 in B major 4:24

7 No. 2 in C major 1:44

8 No. 3 in C minor 6:12

THOMAS ADÈS

Three Mazurkas, Op. 27

9 No. 1 1:55

10 No. 2 2:28

11 No. 3 4:29

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

12 Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23 9:54

Playing time: 68:07



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