

Xenia Pestova is a pianist with a special interest in presenting contemporary works alongside traditional repertoire. Following childhood music education in piano and composition in Russia, Xenia moved to New Zealand with her family. She continued her studies in the UK, the Netherlands, France and Canada. Among her teachers are Håkon Austbø, Louise Bessette, Judith Clark, Sara Laimon, Philip Mead, Ian Pace and Yvonne Loriod-Messiaen in piano, and Ross Harris and John Young in instrumental and electroacoustic composition.

Xenia's awards include an unanimous First Prize at the 2004 *Xavier Montsalvatge International Piano Competition* in Girona, Spain, a Special Mention at the 2003 *Messiaen International Piano Competition* in Paris, and Second Prize at the 2000 *KeriKeri National Piano Competition*, New Zealand's oldest and most prestigious piano competition.

In addition to solo recitals, Xenia enjoys collaboration with other musicians and has performed as ensemble pianist and soloist with the *McGill Contemporary Music Ensemble* (Montreal), *Stroma* (New Zealand), the *United Instruments of Lucilin* (Luxembourg) and Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. She has a piano duo with Luxembourg pianist Pascal Meyer, which focuses on exciting and dynamic repertoire of the present day, and is a founding member and artistic director of the Montreal-based new music collective, *The Contemporary Keyboard Society*.

She has commissioned, premiered and broadcast many new pieces and worked with composers including Cornelis de Bondt, Denys Bouliane, Chris Paul Harman, Toshio Hosokawa, Tristan Murail, Ichiro Nodaira and Hans Tutschku. Xenia holds a Doctor of Music degree in piano performance from the McGill University Schulich School of Music in Montreal.

www.xeniapestova.com