



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

INVASION

MUSIC AND ART FOR UKRAINE

NADIA
SHPACHENKO
pianist

LEWIS
SPRATLAN
composer

REFERENCE RECORDINGS FR-749

Street Date: September 23, 2022



New album of World Premieres from GRAMMY® Award-winning Ukrainian-American pianist Nadia Shpachenko!

REFERENCE RECORDINGS—As she watched in horror her home city of Kharkiv (and the rest of Ukraine) being destroyed and civilians being murdered every day, Shpachenko tried to come up with ways to express her feelings of utter despair and anger, as well as hope and resilience, through her music making. In addition to performing fundraising concerts featuring music by Ukrainian composers, she decided to put together a new album to support Ukraine humanitarian aid. Reference Recordings is proud to release this album, with 100% of proceeds benefitting Ukrainian people affected by the war. Shpachenko commissioned Ukrainian artists to create paintings/artworks to use in the album booklet, online and in-person galleries, and the accompanying music videos, as their responses to the music. Also featured are artworks made by children in Kharkiv, as their responses to the war. The key piece on the album, titled **INVASION** (for piano, alto saxophone, horn, trombone, timpani, snare drum, and mandolin), is Shpachenko’s longtime collaborator Lewis Spratlan’s response to this tragic war. It was composed for Shpachenko during the period of February 24-March 13, 2022. The rest of the album features World Premiere recordings of solo piano music also by Spratlan. These pieces reflect on the human experience, often finding solace and inspiration in nature and music of the past. **WONDERER**, a major piece that closes the album, connects in its character to the current experience of many Ukrainian people, especially those displaced by the war. The hero, searching through the unknown, overcoming pain, and reminiscing about things past, triumphs at the end.

A “gifted and versatile pianist” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) and GRAMMY® Award winner, **Nadia Shpachenko** enjoys bringing into the world things that are outside the box – powerful pieces that often possess unusual sonic qualities or instrumentation. Nadia’s 2019 Reference Recordings album *The Poetry of Places*, featuring world premieres of architecture-inspired works, won the Best Classical Compendium GRAMMY® Award. She is a Steinway Artist, Schoenhut Toy Piano artist, and professor of music at Cal Poly Pomona University.

Lewis Spratlan, winner of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in music, was born in 1940 in Miami, Florida. He is the recipient of numerous awards and Guggenheim, Rockefeller, NEA, Bogliasco, and MacDowell fellowships. He continues producing new works at a prodigious rate.

Reference Recordings, founded in 1976 in San Francisco, has multiple GRAMMY® awards and a catalog that includes numerous American and international orchestras, ensembles and choruses. FRESH! is part of Reference Recordings’ mission to encourage unique and fine artists, and give them a strong platform for promotion and sales nationally and internationally. Reference Recordings are distributed in North America by Naxos USA, and internationally through a network of independent distributors. For more information, visit: www.ReferenceRecordings.com

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INVASION

MUSIC AND ART FOR UKRAINE

NADIA SHPACHENKO, pianist • LEWIS SPRATLAN, composer
WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

- 1 **INVASION** for piano, saxophone, horn, trombone, percussion, & mandolin 12:25
with Anthony Parnter, conductor; Pat Posey, saxophone; Aija Mattson-Jovel, horn;
Phil Keen, trombone; Yuri Inoo, percussion; & Joti Rockwell, mandolin
- 2-4 **PIANO SUITE NO. 1** for solo piano
Capriccio 5:21
Dirge 5:16
Pastorale 3:28
- 5-10 **SIX RAGS** for solo piano
Goose Eye Mountain Rag 3:51
Speck Pond Rag 4:29
Mahoosuc Notch Rag 4:33
Mount Greylock Rag 3:22
Pelham Lake Rag 2:52
Chesterfield Gorge Rag 3:58
- 11-12 **TWO SONATAS** for solo piano
Presto 1:52
Gentle 3:23
- 13 **WONDERER** for solo piano 20:57



"Dawn" ©YURII NAGULKO

TOTAL TIME: 75:47

Recorded on May 29 and June 22-23, 2022 at Silent Zoo Studios, Glendale, CA

Producer: Lewis Spratlan

Recording Engineer: Patrick Dillon Curry

Mixing & Mastering Engineer: Sean Royce Martin

Piano: Steinway & Sons, Model D

Program Notes: Peter Yates

Visual Artists: Yurii Nagulko, Lesia Babliak, Kati Prusenko, Olena Papka,

Aza Nizi Maza Studio children artists, art direction by Mykola Kolomiyets

Cover Painting: Lesia Babliak, "My beloved Ukraine,"

from *Yellow-Blue Album* of war art. March, 2022.

For more information:

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Additional information including visual art also available at: nadiashpachenko.com



Extended Biographies

NADIA SHPACHENKO, piano—GRAMMY® Award-winning Ukrainian-American pianist Nadia Shpachenko enjoys bringing into the world things that are outside the box—powerful pieces that often possess unusual sonic qualities or instrumentation. Described as a “gifted and versatile pianist” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), “one of today’s foremost promoters of contemporary music” (*Textura Magazine*), and “a great friend and champion of new music” (*Fansfare Magazine*), Nadia performed recitals at Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall, Disney Hall, on the Piano Spheres and Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Green Umbrella and Chamber Music Series, and with numerous orchestras in Europe and the Americas. An enthusiastic promoter of contemporary music, Shpachenko has premiered more than 100 works by composers *including*:

Armando Bayolo	Yuri Ishchenko	Isaac Schankler
Elliott Carter	Leon Kirchner	Alexander Shchetynsky
Christopher Cerrone	Dana Kaufman	Adam Schoenberg
Paul Chihara	Amy Beth Kirsten	Lewis Spratlan
George Crumb	Hannah Lash	Gernot Wolfgang
Ian Dicke	James Matheson	Iannis Xenakis
Daniel Felsenfeld	Missy Mazzoli	Peter Yates
Tom Flaherty	Harold Meltzer	Pamela Z
Annie Gosfield	David Sanford	Jack Van Zandt

Nadia’s debut Reference Recordings album *Woman at the New Piano: American Music of 2013* was nominated for the 58th GRAMMY® Awards in 3 categories. “Sure to remain a mainstay of the contemporary discography for posterity” (*New Classic LA*), Nadia’s 2018 Reference Recordings album *Quotations and Homages* features premieres of solo and collaborative works for 6 pianists (performed with Ray-Kallay Duo, HOCKET and Genevieve Feiwen Lee) inspired by a variety of earlier composers and pieces. Described as “superb... evocative... pure magic” (*I Care If You Listen*), Nadia’s 2019 Reference Recordings album *The Poetry of Places* features premieres of solo and collaborative works (performed with LA Phil pianist Joanne Pearce Martin and LAPQ percussionists Nick Terry and Cory Hills) inspired by diverse buildings. *The Poetry of Places* won the 62nd Best Classical Compendium GRAMMY® Award. She is also featured on Isaac Schankler’s 2019 Aerocade Music album *Because Patterns*, Gernot Wolfgang’s 2019 Albany Records album *Vienna and the West*, José Serebrier’s 2021 Reference Recordings album *Last Tango Before Sunrise*, and Wouter Kellerman’s 2021 South African Music Award-winning album *We’ve Known All Times*. Nadia completed her DMA and MM degrees at the University of Southern California, where she was awarded the title of Outstanding Graduate. Her principal teachers included John Perry, Victor Rosenbaum, and Victor Derevianko.

She is a Steinway Artist, Schoenhut Toy Piano artist, and professor of music at Cal Poly Pomona University.

LEWIS SPRATLAN, composer—Winner of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in music and the 2016 Charles Ives Opera Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Lewis Spratlan was born in 1940 in Miami, Florida. His music, often praised for its dramatic impact and vivid scoring, is performed regularly throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Spratlan is the recipient of an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Composition, as well as Guggenheim, Rockefeller, Bogliasco, NEA, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and MacDowell Fellowships. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Yale University. From 1970 until his retirement in 2006, Spratlan taught composition at Amherst College. He locates himself solidly in the mainstream of Western music, in the tradition of chant through Ligeti and beyond. He is also much influenced by jazz and South Indian music. Spratlan writes: “I consider myself free of any ideology beyond that contained by music itself—the laws of counterpoint, principles of movement, changes in density, register, and color. All of this provides a means to *say* something human, to make observations about oneself in the world and the world in oneself.” As to what to write, he follows the advice of an early instructor, “Above all, *write* what you want to *hear*.”

Producing new works at a prodigious rate, his recent commissions include the opera *Earthrise*, commissioned by San Francisco Opera; a piano quartet, *Streaming*, commissioned by the Ravinia Festival; *Sojourner* for ten players, commissioned by the Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress; *Shadow*, commissioned by cellist Matt Haimovitz; *Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra*, a consortium commission; *A Summer’s Day*, commissioned by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project; *Shining: Double Concerto for Cello and Piano*, commissioned by Matt Haimovitz and Christopher O’Riley; and *Common Ground*, commissioned by The Crossing choir, among many others. Spratlan’s opera *Life is a Dream* received its world premiere by the Santa Fe Opera in 2010, under the baton of Leonard Slatkin. His *Horn Quartet*, dedicated to the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, was premiered in September 2013. *Bangladesh*, for solo piano, commissioned by Piano Spheres, was premiered in October 2015 at REDCAT/Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, by Nadia Shpachenko, followed by numerous subsequent performances. Spratlan has recently completed his fourth opera, *Midi*, a black French-Caribbean Medea, ca. 1930.