

BIOGRAPHY OF RUUSAMARI TEPPU, PIANO

Pianist Ruusamari Teppo started piano in her native country, Finland, at the age of five. After graduating from the Sibelius High School in Helsinki, she studied for three years in Paris with the distinguished professor and pianist of the Tchaikovsky Trio, Konstantin Bogino.

She has artist's certificates for the Prague Conservatory and the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. The Finnish government gave Ms. Teppo scholarships to study at both places.

Since 2001 she has been studying at the University of North Texas with Van Cliburn winner, Vladimir Viardo. Ruusamari has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in the USA, Italy, France, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Estonia, and South Africa. In March, 2008 she won the second prize at the Petroff Piano competition in San Antonio, Texas.

She has been an artist in several festivals (Inkoo Meri ja Musiikki, Stellenbosh International Chamber Music Festival) and performed for radio and television in Finland and the United States.

Being a direct descendant of Jean Sibelius, Ruusamari performs many of his works including a project for the unpublished, early chamber works. Ms. Teppo was also a coordinator for the 4th International Jean Sibelius Conference held in Denton, TX, USA.

Ruusamari has participated in several master classes given by Yefim Bronfman, Dmitri Bashkirov, and Matti Raekellio. The Finnish Cultural Foundation, the University of North Texas, the Oskar Oflund Foundation, and the Cimo Foundation have awarded her scholarships.

Ms. Teppo is currently the pianist for the University of North Texas Symphony Orchestra and the Richardson Symphony.

Ruusamari's near future engagements include performing in the Inkoo Music Festival in Finland, playing seven concerts with a chamber group from the University of North Texas.

Ms. Teppo has also been accepted to the Ibla Foundation competition in Sicily, Italy.