



## Margaret Fingerhut - Biography

Margaret Fingerhut is regarded as one of the most poetic pianists of her generation who has captivated audiences in many different countries with her imaginatively designed recital programmes, “A World of Piano Themes”. In these programmes she explores the highways and byways of the piano repertoire, personally introducing the music to the audience from the keyboard. As a concerto soloist she has appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the London Mozart Players. She is often heard on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and many radio stations worldwide. Her film and television appearances include a role in “Testimony”, Tony Palmer’s film about Shostakovich.

A Chandos artist, Margaret’s extensive and eclectic discography has received worldwide critical acclaim. Her numerous discs reflect her long-standing fascination with exploring lesser-known repertoire, and include works by Bax, Berkeley, Bloch, Dukas, Falla, Grieg, Howells, Leighton, Novak, Stanford and Suk. Many have been selected as the Gramophone’s Critics’ Choice, and two of her Bax recordings - the Octet with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Ensemble and the Concertante for Piano Left Hand and Orchestra with Vernon Handley and the BBC Philharmonic - were short-listed for Gramophone awards. She was also the soloist in the world première recording of Percy Young’s arrangement of Elgar’s sketches for his Piano Concerto slow movement, with the Munich Symphony Orchestra. Her latest release, a disc of solo piano music by the Polish/French composer Alexandre Tansman, received high praise and was awarded the accolade of “Diapason D’Or” in France. *“Beautifully sensitive performances ...she is the perfect pianist for these idiosyncratically intimate works. Magnificent”*. (International Record Review)

Margaret taught piano at the Royal Northern College of Music for a number of years and she is currently a Visiting Tutor at the Birmingham Conservatoire. She has given masterclasses at colleges and schools throughout the UK and Europe, including Chetham’s International Summer School for Pianists and Dartington International Summer School. Her teaching at Dartington was described by “The Spectator” magazine as demonstrating *“enormous skill and sympathy”*. She has also been an adjudicator for the BBC Young Musician of the Year on several occasions. Margaret was elected a National Arts Associate of Sigma Alpha Iota in the USA in recognition of her distinguished contribution to the arts.

Engagements in 2010 include recitals, broadcasts and masterclasses in the USA, Canada, China and Slovenia.

In addition to her performing and teaching, Margaret has also written articles for magazines such as Classical Music, Pianist and Piano Professional.