

# Kevin Class

## – Short Bio

**B**orn in Belgium, pianist and conductor Kevin Class has enjoyed much success as a soloist in many of the world's major musical centers. Since his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 19, he has regularly performed in venues such as Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Vienna's Musikverein and Geneva's Victoria Hall. Following several seasons of annual performances in The Netherlands and Belgium, including the complete piano sonatas of Schubert in Amsterdam in 1997, the Belgian government named Kevin a *Fellow of the Flemish Community* in 1998.

**K**evin Class studied the piano with Daniel Blumenthal at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, as well as with Murray Perahia, Ralph Votapek, Jeffery Gilliam and György Sebok. His recordings, as a soloist, for CRS, Centaur, MMO and Jackal Records include piano concertos of Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, and Schumann as well as albums of solo works by Chopin, Liszt, Schumann and Schubert. His recording of Elliott Carter's *Piano Sonata 1945-6* received the European Artist's Dutch Music Critics prize following its release in 1998, and received the commendation of the composer who proclaimed that "my sonata has waited fifty years for such treatment". Kevin has been profiled by CBC television, as well as BBC Radio, Radio Noord-Holland and NPR. As a teacher, Kevin has served as Artist-in-Residence at the State University of New York – Potsdam, and has also presented master classes at the conservatories of Brussels, Geneva and Rotterdam, in addition to SUNY-Stonybrook, Ithaca College and other institutions in the United States and Canada. Since 1999, Kevin has performed in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva, performing exclusively for the benefit of the humanitarian organization.

**K**evin Class most recently served on the Opera Studies faculty of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music where he was Music Director and Conductor for Martina Arroyo's Advanced Opera Program. Prior to that, Kevin spent four seasons as Resident Conductor and Guest Music Director of the Illinois Opera Theatre at the University of Illinois where he conducted numerous productions ranging from the Da Ponte operas of Mozart's to French Grand Opera. As conductor of the Theatre's Workshop productions, Class presided over performances of a series of American operas including Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*, Hugo Weisgall's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* and Russell Smith's *Unicorn in the Garden*. With more than 40 operas in his active repertoire, conducting activities have found him on the podium at the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden and the National Opera Studio in London, the National Opera Theatre La Monnaie in Brussels. In orchestral repertoire he has appeared in front of the Chicago Youth Symphony, Northern Illinois Philharmonic, Peabody Conservatory Orchestra, the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, and as a resident conductor of the Illinois New Music Ensemble. He has served as assistant conductor for productions of *Rigoletto* and *La Cenerentola* for Utah Festival Opera, and as a Principal Guest Conductor for Opera Illinois, he recently conducted Puccini's *Il Trittico* to critical and audience acclaim.

**I**n March 2005, Class embarked on a Spring Residency project combining performances and teaching in various disciplines including work as a soloist, collaborative pianist and conductor. The 2005 Residency included two-weeks of engagements in Arizona comprised of a televised (PBS) performance as soloist in Scriabin's Piano Concerto (with the White Mountain Symphony Orchestra), solo and collaborative recitals, and masterclasses for pianists, singers and conductors. In May 2006, Class spent three weeks in residence in Taipei, Taiwan where he taught pianists at both the Taipei Municipal University and Fu-jen Catholic University, conducted and taught an orchestra workshop with the Taipei Da-an String Orchestra and served as a juror for the Hsinchu TSMC Mozart Piano Competition. His 2007 Residency was expanded to four weeks and included teaching and masterclasses at four universities in Taiwan.

In the Fall 2007, Kevin will join the faculty of the University of Tennessee School of Music where he will direct the Collaborative Arts program and serve as Musical Director of the UT Opera Theater. He resides in Bloomington, Indiana with his wife, pianist Bernadette Lo, with whom he occasionally performs as part of the "Lo-Class Piano Duo".