



Piano Duo Mona & Rica Bard

Biography 2018/19



“They combine the qualities that I associate with some of the 20th-century’s best duo piano teams: the Labèque sisters’ verve and dynamism, the Kontarsky brothers’ rigor and clarity, and Tal and Groethuysen’s sensitivity.” FANFARE MAGAZINE

Four hands, two sisters, one pulse - Mona & Rica Bard already started playing together in their childhood and have been playing piano four hands and at two pianos ever since. In addition to their studies with the piano duo Hans-Peter and Volker Stenzl, they have drawn important artistic inspiration from their work with the duo Yaara Tal/Andreas Groethuysen as well as from Katia Labèque, Leonard Hokanson, Konstanze Eickhorst and Alfons Kontarsky.

The Duo won national and international awards (e.g. German Music Competition, *Twenty Fingers* Rome) and was accepted in the National Selection of Young Artists’ Concerts of the German Music Council (Deutscher Musikrat) and in the artists’ roster of the association *Yehudi Menuhin – Live Music Now*.

A considerable number of recitals lead Mona & Rica Bard throughout Europe, to Asia and the USA, to renowned festivals such as the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the NCPA May Festival in Beijing and the Chicago Piano Duo Festival. Orchestral engagements include appearances with Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Gürzenich Kammerorchester, Nationaltheater-Orchester Mannheim, Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt, Kurpfälzisches Kammerorchester, Duisburger and Heidelberger Philharmoniker. Among their musical partners, the sisters count the percussionists of the Berlin Philharmonic, Li Biao, KrausFrink Percussion, the jazz pianist and composer Uri Caine as well as the conductors Ariane Matiakh and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Numerous concert, radio and television recordings document the artistic versatility of the duo. In 2012 the Piano Duo Mona & Rica Bard recorded their debut album PAS DE DEUX with French music for piano duo, receiving outstanding acclaim by the international music press. In April 2015 the label Capriccio released their recording of the double concertos by Poulenc and Françaix with Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz conducted by Ariane Matiakh. To be followed by another double concerto recording in the 2019/20 season.

For more information and concert dates visit: www.mona-rica-bard.de