

Women and War and Peace

From Poland to Ukraine: A female portrait of 200 years of European Wars

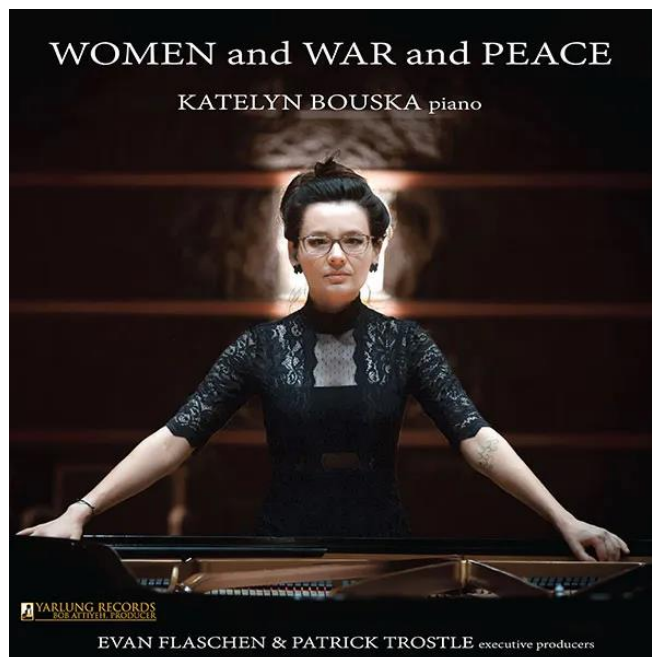
February 10: Yarlung Records releases a new album with pianist Katelyn Bouska marking the first anniversary of Putin's invasion of the Ukraine. This gripping album explores the lives of six women composers during times of war, exile and the aftermath.

...this is one of the most compelling releases of 2023 thus far...

AllMusicGuide

...an artist with a charismatic influence...

Adrian Quanjer, Native DSD



Katelyn shifts, morphs, realigns to bring out the ever-changing moods and perspectives. Her playing carries me along ...Katelyn's richness of dynamic shading make of the work something that is simply alive.

Rushton Paul, Positive Feedback

Katelyn plays with a gripping sensitivity.

Remy Frank, Pizzicato

Bouska's interpretations illustrate her wide imagination and deep personal opinions. Her playing is full of life, flexibility, riveting rhythms and a rich dynamic palette.

Milan Bator, Český Rozhlas

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[Spotify](#) [YouTube](#) [iTunes](#) [Amazon](#)

This is an album about humanity. Six women carving out their place in the world, telling their story wherever fate took them. Their experiences transcend time, space, gender, and politics. In telling their stories, pianist Katelyn Bouska has created a musical world where we see our own reflected.

This album was conceived in the search for these stories. In the long days of isolation at the heart of the pandemic, Kate craved music that was immediate and real, human. Igniting the first spark was Ruth Schönthal's Fragments of a Woman's Diary.

Into these nineteen fragments, Schönthal weaves her story: the early days of promise as a 5-year-old prodigy in Hamburg, her family's panicked escape as Nazis took power, and the decade spent searching for asylum around the world – first in Sweden, then the USSR, Japan, Mexico and finally New York.

Then, suddenly the world shifted again. Putin had invaded the Ukraine.

Kate was in Prague in the first weeks of the war. Sitting across from refugee children on the trains, she prepared a lecture recital for Charles University. The topic, chosen months before, uncanny: Czech music written in reaction to the 1968 Soviet Invasion of Prague. In the audience sat an elderly woman professor just arrived that day from a shell-shocked Kyiv. The air stood heavy in the room as past history and future horrors mingled. The album, *Women and War and Peace*, was born.

Six women – two Czechs, American, Ukrainian, Polish, and German.

Marie Szymanowska
Vítězslava Kaprálová
Ruth Schönthal

Ivana Loudová
Caroline Shaw
Ludmila Yurina

"They were refugees, or they barely survived, or didn't survive, and the fact that they were women at the cutting edge of the contemporary music scenes in their various environments made their situations even more difficult" –producer Bob Attiyeh

The musical language expands seamlessly from Szymanowska's 19th-century sparkling virtuosity to 21st-century Shaw and Yurina's experimental techniques. On this timeline glows the youthful brilliance of Kaprálová before her life is cut short at 25, fleeing the gestapo invasion of Paris. Next to her, stands the quiet defiance of Loudová writing behind the Iron Curtain in Prague.

Their music is powerful, immediate, and at times, searingly beautiful. Ludmila Yurina, one of the composer, writes poignantly:

*"For me, the war began in Kyiv. On February 24, I woke up early morning due of sound of the first missile that flew over my house. I spent several days in a bomb shelter... The city was shelled with missiles every day...**every night something burned and exploded.** For the first few months in America, I tried to cope with stress and depression.*

In this album, pianist Katelyn Bouska has captured the stories of each one of these women in vivid technicolor. Under her careful hands, these compositions spring to life. In the telling, they expand to touch us all. They are our stories, too.

Contact WomenAndWarAndPeace@gmail.com to request a physical CD or digital copy of this recording as well as booking and interview inquiries.

To see clips of music and to hear Katelyn speak about the album click here: [YouTube](#)

<http://www.katelynbouska.com/>

Katelyn Bouska, *pianist*
Women and War and Peace
Yarlung Records (YAR54460)
RELEASE DATE: February 10, 2023

TRACKS

1 Caroline Shaw	Gustave le Grey 14:04
2 Maria Szymanowska	Mazurkas* 2:30
3 Maria Szymanowska	Fantaisie in F major 11:53
4 Ruth Schönthal	Fragments from a Woman's Diary 27:04
5 Ivana Loudová	<i>Pražské imaginace</i> (Prague Imaginations) 11:58
6 Vítězslava Kaprálová	<i>Dubnová preludia</i> (April Preludes) 9:21
7 Ludmila Yurina	Shadows and Ghosts 6:43

* Katelyn Bouska's arrangement of Mazurkas 3, 12, 8 and 17

Pianist Katelyn Bouska is an academic and an advocate, passionate about uncovering music lost to the passage of time. In her programming, she explores the boundaries between audience and performer, the past and the present. She brings to life these composers drawing from her deep research, cultural explorations and innovative programming.

Equally at home on the piano or harpsichord, in front of the lecture hall or on stage, her focus is transcending the barriers between the music, the artist and the audience. She balances her time between Prague and Philadelphia, where she serves on the Musical Studies Faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music.