

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW HOLIDAY ALBUM:
A Concert Piano Christmas at Boston Symphony Hall
Rasa Vitkauskaite, piano

Boston, MA — Last Light Productions, LLC, released [*A Concert Piano Christmas at Boston Symphony Hall*](#) (LLP-012), a splendid showcase of holiday favorites for piano solo featuring internationally acclaimed multiple prize-winning Lithuanian pianist Rasa Vitkauskaite. In a perfect mixture of classical mastery and festive tradition, Rasa offers a scintillating new take on holiday favorites recorded at world renowned Boston Symphony Hall. From Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker *Waltz of the Flowers* to *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*, this jubilee delights and ignites the Christmas spirit. Traditional holiday favorites are transformed into world-class showpieces for concert piano that marry the majesty and joyfulness of the Christmas season. Cozy up and make merry with loved ones this holiday season, and enjoy *A Concert Piano Christmas at Boston Symphony Hall*!

A member of the prestigious Steinway Artist roster, Rasa is the long-serving, critically acclaimed principal pianist of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. She has published many highly acclaimed solo concerto, recital, and chamber music recordings, and has performed in more than 30 countries around the world. Rasa has been hailed for "artistry of poetic and observant sensitivity" (*Gramophone*) and "scintillating pianism" (*Fanfare*). Her 2021 CD including Mozart *Concerto No. 20 in D Minor* and Beethoven *Concerto No. 3 in C Minor* (Ongaku 024-129) was praised as comparable to Rudolf Serkin's legendary recording with Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic.

Rasa is proud to hail from the small country of Lithuania, which is not necessarily known for its military might, but for its courage in the face of adversity. Her family in Lithuania suffered a long history of Soviet persecution; her mother was born in exile in Siberia to a family of political deportees; and her father was a member of the unarmed human shield that defended Lithuania from the attempted Russian takeover shortly after Lithuania declared independence in 1990.

When asked about her experience in recording the album, Rasa shares,

"Deciding which musical selections would make it onto the album was a rigorous process, and my goal was to find music that would be worthy of the Boston Symphony Hall stage. For many musicians, Symphony Hall is a sacred space where only the top performers in the world have performed. Prior to taking on this project, I felt that there was a vacuum of quality holiday music for solo piano that would highlight the craftsmanship and skill of a concert pianist. I am proud to say that each track of *A Concert Piano Christmas* is a true masterpiece that shines new light on holiday favorites. On a personal note, it is also a celebration of hope and freedom that my family is finally able to experience, as during the Soviet occupation, we would have been persecuted for celebrating Christmas openly."

To round out this brilliant release, the CD features audiophile crystal clear dynamic sound quality, which provides the listener with stunning detail, dynamic range, and accurate sound stage, and highlights the remarkable acoustics of Boston's famed Symphony Hall. An impressive production team includes four-time Grammy winning engineer Brad Michel, world-renowned clarinet soloist, conductor and producer Jonathan Cohler, and Canada's premier graphic designer John Godfrey, who has designed art and graphics for films appearing in the Academy Awards, Tribeca and Sundance film festivals.

A Concert Piano Christmas at Boston Symphony Hall is available for sale, download and streaming at Ongaku Records, Amazon, iTunes, Apple Music, YouTube Music, Tidal, Napster, Spotify, and retailers worldwide.

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Photo: Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

Multiple prize-winning Lithuanian pianist **Rasa Vitkauskaitė** has been hailed for “artistry of poetic and observant sensitivity” (*Gramophone*) and dubbed as “a Beethoven interpreter of penetrating insight” (*Fanfare*). Rasa is the long-serving, critically acclaimed principal pianist of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, and a member of the prestigious Steinway Artist roster. She has published many highly acclaimed solo recital, concerto, and chamber music recordings including her just released Mendelssohn *Double Concerto in D Minor and Capriccio Brilliant* (Ongaku 024-132) with Tchaikovsky gold medal violinist Ilya Kaler and conductor Jonathan Cohler. Rasa’s 2021 CD including Mozart *Concerto No. 20 in D Minor* and Beethoven *Concerto No. 3 in C Minor* (Ongaku 024-129) was praised as comparable to Rudolf Serkin’s legendary recording with Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. Her recordings and performances have received the highest accolades throughout the international musical press, and she was recently featured on the cover of the *Fanfare* magazine.

Winner of the Grand Prix at the Mendelssohn Cup Piano Competition in Italy and a Kathryn Waserman Davis grant supporting a concert tour of Israel, Rasa has performed all over the world. Recent seasons have included a solo recital on the acclaimed Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in the

Chicago Cultural Center broadcast live on WFMT radio and hundreds of affiliated stations nationwide as well as collaborations with world renowned artists such as violinist James Buswell, cellist Julia Bruskin, and clarinetist Jonathan Cohler, which whom she recorded four lauded chamber music CDs. She is also the founder and pianist of Chamber Music Boston, and founder of the premier piano studio in Cambridge, MA, where she teaches advanced conservatory and college students.

Having studied classical piano in her home country of Lithuania from the age of four, Rasa has been focused on music for nearly her entire life. She was accepted to the National M. K. Čiurlionis School of Art in Vilnius at the age of 10 and has been performing professionally ever since. She also won a scholarship to attend the United World College of the Adriatic in Italy, where upon graduating, she was awarded the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma with highest grades in music. She completed her Bachelors and Masters Degrees at the Boston Conservatory. Her teachers include Randall Hodgkinson, Michael Lewin, Alberto Miodini, Jūratė Karosaitė, Mūza Rubackytė and Jūratė Prėskienytė.

Rasa currently lives in Boston, Massachusetts, with her husband Daniel, son Richard, and energetic golden retriever Pookis. Her family in Lithuania suffered a long history of Soviet persecution; her mother was born in exile in Siberia to a family of political deportees; and her father was a member of the unarmed human shield that defended Lithuania from the attempted Russian takeover shortly after Lithuania declared independence in 1990. Rasa is proud to hail from a country not necessarily known for its size or military might, but for its courage in the face of adversity. She has been outspoken about the recent Russian invasion into Ukraine, and has organized and participated in several fundraising efforts to help the Ukrainian people.

For more information, please visit her website <https://rasapiano.com>.