

Electronic Press Kit

Mehana Ellis

Piano



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University of California, Berkeley

Music/Mathematics double major, class of 2026

- Piano teacher: Betty Woo, 2022 - 2026 (bettywoo@berkeley.edu)
- Joan C. Reutinger Prize: Scholarship for "outstanding freshman pianist," 2022
- Alfred Hertz Memorial Traveling Scholarship, 2024/25
- Bernece B. Lyon Memorial Prize, 2024/25
- Performed solo piano for Noon Concert Series and Stebbins Piano Series (Berkeley Women's Faculty Club)
- University Chorus, 2022 - 2024
- Javanese Gamelan, 2025

San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Pre-College Division

Studied from 2015 - 2022, graduated with Honors

- Piano teachers: Annamarie McCarthy, 2019 - 2022 (amccarthy@sfcm.edu); Tomoko Hagiwara, 2018 - 2019
- Violin teacher: Joseph Maile of Fischoff and Naumburg-winning Telegraph Quartet, 2015 - 2018
- Noteworthy Musicianship Tutor Award, 2019
- Chorus, 5 years; string orchestra, 1 year; full senior recital
- 17th Annual Young Pianists Play Liszt recital, SF Bay Area Chapter of the American Liszt Society and SFCM, 2022
- Two scholar certificates (research papers and presentations on Liszt and Chopin)

Recent Honors + Awards

- First Prize, International Music Competition "Paris" Grand Prize Virtuoso, 2025
- First Prize, Rachmaninoff Concerto Competition (Triumph Music Festival), 2025
- Aspen Music Festival and School, Solo Piano (student of Anton Nel, full 8-week session), 75th Anniversary Season 2024
- Third Prize, The American Prize in Piano Performance (solo), 2024
- First Prize, 4Seasons Vienna International Musician Competition, 2024
- Second Prize, WPTA Spain International Piano Competition, 2024
- International Music Festival of the Adriatic, Solo/Chamber, (Duino and Trieste, Italy; Radovljica, Slovenia), 2023
- McKee Laureate, 25th Annual Ross McKee Piano Competition, 2023
- Grand Prize, 2nd Elena Leonova International Young Pianists Competition (New York Piano Society), 2022
- Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Young Artists Piano Program, Summer 2022
- Plus 90+ awards since 2020

Performances

- The Opéra Bastille, Paris, France - December 11, 2025
- Academy of Music Ballroom (Kimmel Center), Philadelphia - September 27, 2025
- Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley (Noon Concert) - September 3, 2025
- Isidor Bajic Music School, Novi Sad, Serbia (Concert) - May 21, 2025
- University of Cambridge, England (British Forum of Ethnomusicology) - April 3, 2025
- Sala degli Arazzi, Piacenza, Italy - October 26, 2024
- Aspen Music Festival and School, Harris Hall - August 16, 2024
- Mozarthaus Vienna - May 26, 2024
- Novi Sad, Serbia (Lecture-recital) - May 22, 2024
- Université d'Artois, France (Lecture-recital) - March 28, 2024
- 92nd Street Y - November 5, 2023
- Radovljica, Slovenia - June 25, 2023
- Trieste & Duino, Italy (chamber/solo) - Various Dates, 2023
- The Bowes Center at SFCM - January 15, 2023
- Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall), New York - December 18, 2022
- Boston University Tanglewood Young Artists Piano Program - Various Dates, 2022

EPK

[Photos/Videos](#) [Biography](#) [Repertoire List](#)

Biography

50 words: Mehana Ellis is a UC Berkeley Music/Mathematics double major studying piano with Betty Woo. In 2024, she studied with Anton Nel at Aspen Music Festival. Mehana has performed at 92nd Street Y, Carnegie Hall, SFCM's Bowes Center, Harris Hall (Aspen), and abroad in Austria, England, France, Italy, Serbia, and Slovenia.

100 words: Mehana Ellis is a UC Berkeley Music/Mathematics double major studying piano with Betty Woo, having previously studied with Annamarie McCarthy at San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has been awarded top prizes in many international competitions, Berkeley's Alfred Hertz Memorial Traveling Scholarship, participated in the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and International Music Festival of the Adriatic. In 2024, Mehana studied with Anton Nel at Aspen Music Festival, where she performed in a masterclass with Mikhail Voskresensky. She has performed at 92nd Street Y, Carnegie Hall, SFCM's Bowes Center, Harris Hall, and abroad in Austria, England, France, Italy, Serbia, and Slovenia.

150 words: Mehana Ellis is a UC Berkeley Music/Mathematics double major studying piano under the tutelage of Betty Woo. At the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, she previously studied with Annamarie McCarthy. Mehana was named a Ross McKee Young Artist in the 25th Annual Ross McKee Piano Competition, Grand Prize winner of the 2nd Elena Leonova International Young Pianists Competition, was awarded Berkeley's Alfred Hertz Memorial Traveling Scholarship, and participated in the Boston University Tanglewood Institute in 2022 and the International Music Festival of the Adriatic in 2023. Mehana studied with Anton Nel at the Aspen Music Festival and School in 2024, where she performed in a masterclass with Mikhail Voskresensky. She has performed at 92nd Street Y, Carnegie Hall, SFCM's Bowes Center, UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall, Harris Hall (Aspen), and abroad in Austria, England, France (The Opéra Bastille), Italy, Serbia (presented a lecture-recital in Novi Sad), and Slovenia.

250 words: Mehana Ellis is a UC Berkeley Music/Mathematics double major studying piano under the tutelage of Betty Woo. In the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Division, she studied with Annamarie McCarthy. Mehana was named a Ross McKee Young Artist in the 25th Annual Ross McKee Piano Competition, Grand Prize winner of the 2nd Elena Leonova International Young Pianists Competition (New York Piano Society), First Prize winner of Rachmaninoff Concerto Competition 2025 (Triumph Music Festival), was awarded Berkeley's Alfred Hertz Memorial Traveling Scholarship, Bernece B. Lyon Memorial Prize, and the Joan C. Reutinger Prize "in recognition of an outstanding freshman pianist." She participated in the Boston University Tanglewood Institute in 2022 and the International Music Festival of the Adriatic in 2023. Mehana studied with Anton Nel at the Aspen Music Festival and School in 2024, where she performed in a masterclass with Mikhail Voskresensky. Mehana has also performed in masterclasses by Evren Ozel and Nico Muhly. She has performed at 92nd Street Y, Carnegie Hall, Harris Hall (Aspen), SFCM's Bowes Center, UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall, Academy of Music Ballroom (Philadelphia), and abroad in Austria, England, France (The Opéra Bastille), Italy, Serbia, and Slovenia. Mehana has given lecture-recitals on works of Rachmaninoff (2024 World Piano Conference in Novi Sad, Serbia) and Margaret Bonds (2025 British Forum for Ethnomusicology, University of Cambridge). She performed the Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor at Tanglewood, Aspen, and UC Berkeley, as well as the Dvorak Piano Quintet in A major in Italy (Duino and Trieste).

Repertoire

Piano Solo

Albéniz - "Triana" from Iberia Book II
Bach - Italian Concerto in F major, BWV 971
Bach - Inventions/Sinfonias No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15
Bach - Prelude & Fugue in C major BWV 846
Bach - Prelude & Fugue in C minor BWV 847
Bach - Prelude & Fugue in E major BWV 854
Bach - Prelude & Fugue in F-sharp minor BWV 859
Bach - Prelude & Fugue in A-flat major BWV 862
Bach-Hess - Chorale BWV 147 "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"
Bartok - Improvisations Op. 20 No. 1, 2, 8
Bauer - "Elegie" in E minor
Beethoven - Sonata No. 17 (Op. 31 No. 2) in D minor
Beethoven - Sonata No. 23 (Op. 57) in F minor
Beethoven - Sonata No. 24 (Op. 78) in F-sharp major
Bonds - "Troubled Water" from Spiritual Suite
Chew - "Pitter Patter"
Chopin - Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23
Chopin - Étude in C major Op. 10 No. 1
Chopin - Étude in E major Op. 10 No. 3
Chopin - Étude in C-sharp minor Op. 10 No. 4
Chopin - Étude in G-flat major Op. 10 No. 5
Chopin - Étude in F minor Op. 10 No. 9
Chopin - Étude in A-flat major Op. 10 No. 10
Chopin - Étude in C minor Op. 10 No. 12
Chopin - Étude in A-flat major Op. 25 No. 1
Chopin - Étude in F minor Op. 25 No. 2
Chopin - Étude in G-sharp minor Op. 25 No. 6
Chopin - Étude in B minor Op. 25 No. 10
Chopin - Étude in C minor Op. 25 No. 12
Chopin - Mazurka in A minor Op. 17 No. 4
Chopin - Nocturne in B major Op. 32 No. 1
Chopin - Nocturne in A-flat major Op. 32 No. 2
Chopin - Nocturne in E-flat major Op. 9 No. 2
Chopin - Nocturne in B-flat minor Op. 9 No. 1
Chopin - Nocturne in E minor posth. 72 No. 1
Chopin - Scherzo in B-flat minor Op. 31 No. 2
Chopin - Waltz in C-sharp minor Op. 64 No. 2
Chopin - Waltz in A minor Op. 34 No. 2
Chopin - Waltz in A minor posth. No. 11
Chopin - Waltz in D-flat major Op. 64 No. 1
Chopin - Waltz in A-flat major Op. 69 No. 1

Chopin - Waltz in B minor Op. 69 No. 2
Chopin - Waltz in E minor posth. B. 56
Chopin - Prelude in C major Op. 28 No. 1
Chopin - Prelude in A minor Op. 28 No. 2
Chopin - Prelude in E minor Op. 28 No. 4
Chopin - Prelude in B minor Op. 28 No. 6
Chopin - Prelude in D-flat major Op. 28 No. 15
Chopin - Polonaise in D minor Op. 71 No. 1
Chopin - Polonaise in C-sharp minor Op. 26 No. 1
Debussy - Estampes (complete)
Debussy - "Clair de Lune" from Suite Bergamasque
Debussy - "Rêverie"
Debussy - Arabesque No. 1, L 66
Fauré - "Pavane" Op. 50
Granados - 8 Valses Poéticos
Grant Still - "Summerland" from Three Visions
Grieg - Lyric Pieces Book II (No. 1-4, No. 7-8)
Haydn - Piano Sonata in B minor, Hob. XVI:32
Kodály - Zongora Muzsika
Liszt - Sonata in B minor S.178
Liszt - "Bénédiction de Dieu dans la Solitude"
Liszt - Transcendental Étude No. 1 ("Prelude")
Liszt - Transcendental Étude No. 11 ("Harmonies du Soir")
Liszt - "Un Sospiro" from Drei Konzertetuden
Liszt - Liebestraume No. 1, 2, 3
Liszt - "Sursum Corda" from Années de pèlerinage III, S.163
Liszt - Grandes Études de Paganini No. 5 in E major "La Chasse"
Mozart - Sonata No. 16 in C major
Paderewski - Nocturne in B-flat major Op.16 No. 4
Poulenc - Mouvements Perpétuels
Rachmaninoff - Étude-Tableau in C major Op. 33 No. 2
Rachmaninoff - Étude-Tableau in C minor Op. 33 No. 3
Rachmaninoff - Étude-Tableau in D minor Op. 33 No. 4
Rachmaninoff - Étude-Tableau in E-flat major Op. 33 No. 7
Rachmaninoff - Étude-Tableau in G minor Op. 33 No. 8
Rachmaninoff - Étude-Tableau in C-sharp minor Op. 33 No. 9
Rachmaninoff - Prélude in B-flat major Op. 23 No. 2
Rachmaninoff - Prélude in D major Op. 23 No. 4
Rachmaninoff - Prélude in G minor Op. 23 No. 5
Rachmaninoff - Prélude in G major Op. 32 No. 5
Rachmaninoff - Prélude in B minor Op. 32 No. 10
Rachmaninoff - Prélude in B major Op. 32 No. 11
Rachmaninoff - Prélude in G-sharp minor Op. 32 No. 12
Rachmaninoff-Kreisler - "Liebesleid"
Siloti-Rachmaninoff - "Vocalise" Op. 34 No. 14
Volodos-Rachmaninoff - "Zdes khorosho" Op. 21 No. 7
Ravel - "La Valse" (arr. for solo piano)
Ravel - "Pavane pour une infante défunte"

Rochberg - Short Sonata No. 2
Satie - Trois Gymnopédies
Schubert-Liszt - "Auf dem Wasser zu Singen"
Schubert-Liszt - "Ständchen"
Schubert - Impromptu in A-flat major Op. 90 No. 4, D. 899
Schubert - Moment Musical in F minor Op. 94 No. 3, D. 780
Schubert - "Ungarische Melodie" in B minor D. 817
Schubert - Sonata No. 13 in A major, D. 664
Schumann-Liszt - "Widmung"
Schumann - Kinderszenen
Scriabin - Étude in B major, Op. 8 No. 4
Wagner-Liszt - "Liebestod" from Tristan und Isolde

Complete Concerti

Chopin - Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor
Rachmaninoff - Piano Concerto No. 1 in F-sharp minor

Complete Chamber Works

Brahms - Piano Quintet in F minor Op. 34
Dvořák - Piano Quintet in A major Op. 81

Accompaniment

Brahms - "Ständchen" Op. 106 No. 1
Chopin - "17 Polish Songs" Op. 74 No. 1 - 8
Grant Still - "Summerland" from Three Visions (violin)
Mozart - "Porgi Amor" (Le Nozze di Figaro)
Ponce-Heifetz - "Estrellita"
Rachmaninoff - "Vocalise" Op. 34 No. 14
Rachmaninoff - "Zdes khorosho" Op. 21 No. 7
Schubert - "An die Musik"
Schubert - "Auf dem Wasser zu Singen"
Schubert - "Du bist die Ruh"
Schubert - "Nacht und Träume"
Schubert - "Ständchen"
Schumann - "Widmung"

Original Compositions + Transcriptions

Mehana Ellis - Piano Trio in Aflat major Op. 1 ("Three Wishes and What Comes After")

Mehana Ellis - String Quartet in A major Op. 2 ("Snoopy Museum: Santa Rosa Fire")

Mehana Ellis - Préludes pour piano Op. 3

Mehana Ellis - Suite pour orchestre Op. 4

Mehana Ellis - "Le Gui de Mont Saint-Michel"

Mehana Ellis - "Récitatif en hommage à Duruflé"

Rachmaninoff-Ellis - "The Mellow Wedding Bells" from The Bells, transcribed for solo piano