

Lamont School of Music

Olga Kern Piano

Masterclass

Thursday, February 19, 2026

4:00 p.m.

Hamilton Recital Hall



With a vivid onstage presence, dazzling technique, and keen musicianship, pianist **Olga Kern** is widely recognized as one of the great artists of her generation. Born into a family of musicians, she began piano studies at age five and won first prize at the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition at seventeen. In 2001, she launched her U.S. career by winning the Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition—the only woman in the last 50 years to do so.

A Steinway Artist and Spirio Steinway ambassador, Kern is a laureate of numerous international competitions and a sought-after juror. She has served as Jury Chairman for major competitions including the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition and the Olga Kern International Piano Competition, where she is also Artistic Director. She joined the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music in 2017 and received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor the same year. In 2019, she was appointed Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music at the Virginia Arts Festival.

Kern has performed with many leading orchestras worldwide, including the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, D.C.), Czech Philharmonic, Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala, NHK Symphony Orchestra, and orchestras across North America, Europe, Asia, and South Africa. Recent seasons include performances with the Dallas Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, and Colorado Symphony, as well as tours in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Her acclaimed discography includes Grammy-nominated recordings and releases on Harmonia Mundi, Sony, Delos, and other major labels. In 2012, she founded the Kern Foundation “Aspiration,” supporting talented young musicians worldwide.

Program

Sonata in E Major, Op.109

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770–1827)

- I. Vivace ma non troppo- Adagio espressivo
- II. Prestissimo
- III. Gesangvoll, mit innigster Emfindung

Benjamin David Tufte, piano

From the studio of Steven Mayer

Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 30

Sergei Rachmaninoff

(1873–1943)

- I. Allegro ma non tanto

Francis Lien, piano

From the studio of Stephanie Cheng

Lamont Concert Line: (808) 871-6412

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