



DR. KAREN WALWYN

Steinway Artist
Concert Pianist, Composer, Educator,
Carnegie Mellon Faculty Scholar
and Albany Recording Artist

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Pianist Composer Steinway Artist

Karen Walwyn, Concert Pianist, Composer and an Albany Recording Artist, is the first female African American pianist/ composer to receive the Steinway Artist Award.

A native of New York, **Concert Pianist** Karen Walwyn made her New York solo piano debut at Merkin Hall as a follow-up to her 2-CD series for Albany Records entitled *Dark Fires*, offering premiere recordings of works by American composers of African descent. Bill Faucett from The American Record Guide said “Walwyn’s pianism is superb”, and Peter Burwasser from Fanfare Magazine said “Walwyn gets through this technically demanding program with aplomb. Her rhythmic nimbleness is especially notable.” She did the premiere performance of the Florence Price *Piano Concerto in One Movement* with the New Black Music Repertory Ensemble. Noted music critic, Bob McQuiston, wrote: “Walwyn provides a magnificent account of the concerto displaying her considerable technical skills” of the Albany Records album.


As a **Composer**, she received the Global Award: *Gold Medal -Award of Excellence* for her recording of her composition entitled *Reflections on 9/11*. Robert Schulslaper of Fanfare Magazine wrote: “Imaginatively conceived and executed, it both disturbingly transposes the catastrophe into appropriately cataclysmic sound and artistically suggests the aftermath’s lingering sense of numbing devastation.” The demand for concerts of this seven-movement ‘tour de force’ continuously carries her across the nation for command performances, which was first premiered in full at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

As a **Mellon Faculty Fellow** at the John Hope Franklin Institute, Duke University, Walwyn composed her debut choral work entitled *Of Dance & Struggle: A Musical Tribute on the Life of Nelson Mandela*, (Choir/Solo Piano/African Percussion) commissioned and performed by the Elon University Chorale under the direction of Dr. Gerald Knight. It has been heralded by the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. as “a monumental work for our beloved president, Nelson Mandela.”

Dr. Walwyn, **Area Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at Howard University**, is in constant concert demand nationally and internationally for both her repertoire from Frédéric Chopin to Florence Price, as well as for performances of her own works for solo piano, choir and instrumental ensemble. Some recent concerts include appearances in Johannesburg, South Africa; Barcelona, Spain; Tenerife, Canary Islands; Salzburg, Austria; London, England; and Nice, France. Nationally, Walwyn has performed throughout the contiguous United States, Hawaii, West Indies and the Virgin Islands.

For more information, please visit www.karenwalwyn.com.



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