

Montreal International Music Competition and second prize at the 2017 Wigmore Hall International Song Competition.

Mr. Dugan advocates the importance of music in the community and at all levels of society. As a founding creator and the pianist for Operation Superpower, a superhero opera for children, he has travelled to dozens of schools in the greater New York area, performing for students and encouraging them to use their talents – their superpowers – for good.

Mr. Dugan holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied under Matti Raekallio. He resides in New York with his wife, mezzo-soprano Kara Dugan, and serves on the piano faculty at the Juilliard School Evening Division. Mr. Dugan is a Yamaha Artist.

A NOTE FROM THE ARCHIVE by Brad Snelling

Tonight marks the 72nd anniversary of a recital given for Matinee Musicale by the Austrian-born pianist, Hilde Somer. Although she is not well-known to today's audiences, Somer is considered important for her advocacy of new music, and particularly for having given the first performances of piano concertos by Alberto Ginastera and John Corigliano, Jr.

In his entry for Somer in *The Art of the Piano: Its Performers, Literature and Recordings*, David Dubal remarks on Somer's affinity for lesser-known Latin American repertoire. Dubal singles out Somer's recording of Juan Jose Castro's *Sonatina espanola*—especially for her playing in the finale which he describes as “a rondo based on Weber's celebrated *Perpetuum Mobile* in the right hand, while the left is occupied with other material.”

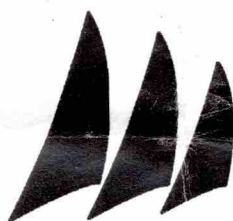
Born in 1922, Somer came with her family to the United States in 1938 as a Jewish refugee. At 14, she enrolled at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where she was a student of Rudolf Serkin. Her other teachers included Claudio Arrau and Wanda Landowska.



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Hilde Somer was 25 at the time of her March 5, 1947 recital at the Pilgrim Congregational Church. The major works on her program included the Bach Fantasy and Fugue in A Minor, the Beethoven Sonata in E Minor, op. 90, the Brahms Rhapsody op. 119, no. 4, and Liszt's *Venezia e Napoli* from *Années de pèlerinage*. Margaret Morris penned a favorable review of the recital for the *Duluth News Tribune* commenting that Somer "proved herself an artist who knows not only how to produce effect but how to use it. She imposes a spell and holds it. Her music is so constantly alive and vital, yet so scrupulously fashioned that monotony never once rears its shabby head." Morris noted two of Somer's three encores: the Khachaturian Toccata and a Gershwin prelude. There was also "a third piece which we were unable to stay to hear."

Hilde Somer died while traveling in the Bahamas in December 1979. Several of her recordings remain in print on the Phoenix and Orion labels.



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