

# ZOFO



***"...jaw-dropping awesome!"***

- SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

***"...electrifyingly out of this world"***

- BACHTRACK

***"...dazzling"***

- LOS ANGELES TIMES

**[www.zofoduet.com](http://www.zofoduet.com)**

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## ABOUT ZOFO

Since joining forces as a professional duo in 2009, internationally acclaimed solo pianists Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi – **ZOFO** - have electrified audiences from Carnegie Hall to Tokyo, Japan with their dazzling artistry and outside-the-box thematic programming for piano-four-hands. This GRAMMY- nominated, prize-winning Steinway Artist Ensemble – one of only a handful of duos worldwide devoted exclusively to piano duets – is blazing a bold new path for piano-four-hands groups by focusing on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century repertoire and by commissioning new works from noted composers each year.

ZOFO, which is shorthand for 20-finger orchestra (ZO=20 and FO=finger orchestra), also performs heart-pumping duet arrangements of famous orchestral pieces such as Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, exploring the realms in which many composers first experienced their symphonic visions. They believe that the piano duet is the most intimate form of chamber music, with two musicians playing individual parts on one instrument in a complex, often beautiful choreography of four hands.

Since its inception in 2009, ZOFO has made some remarkable achievements:

**TWO GRAMMY NOMINATIONS:** 2013 Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance and Producer of the Year, Classical for their debut CD MIND MELD

**FIRST PLACE:** 2010 Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition

**CARNEGIE HALL** concert debut May 2010

**FINALISTS:** 2011 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition – only piano duo to be elevated to the final round

**MULTI-DISC RECORDING CONTRACT** with GRAMMY Award winning Sono Luminus Records

**STEINWAY ARTIST ENSEMBLE** designation conferred by Steinway & Sons

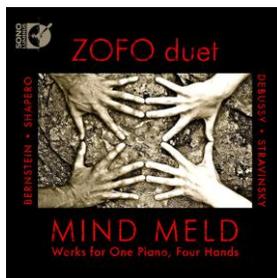
**12 SELF-COMMISSIONED WORKS** by noted composers including Pulitzer Prize winner William Bolcom, Gabriela Lena Frank and Terry Riley

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES** at a wide variety of concert venues across the US, Europe and Japan, including intimate, informal spaces, colleges and universities, and major concert venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Tokyo Opera Recital Hall and Tonhalle Zurich

**BROADCAST MEDIA ATTENTION:** featured multiple times on prominent radio programs such as American Public Media's *Performance Today*, WFMT Chicago's *Impromptu*, and KING Seattle's *Second Inversion*, among many others.

## CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED RECORDINGS

ZOFO's concert programs often incorporate a unifying theme that connects the works both musically and historically. Several of these thematic programs have been released worldwide as critically acclaimed commercial CDs under their contract with Sono Luminous Records:



**MIND MELD:** stunning duet works by four noted 20th century composers and pianists who knew each other, learned from each other, and sometimes shared the bench. 2013 GRAMMY Nominee Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance

***"Simply gorgeous."***

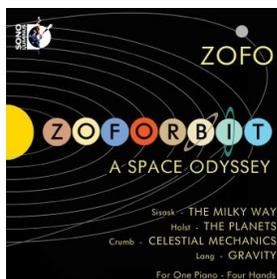
- SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE



**MOSH PIT:** drawing inspiration from classical, modern, jazz and rock and roll forms, this program offers an adrenalized exploration of dance-themed duet compositions by six distinctly American voices of the 20th and 21st centuries

***"...vibrant, beautifully blended playing"***

- SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



**ZOFORBIT:** takes the listener on an intergalactic voyage through the Milky Way with original arrangements of Gustav Holst's THE PLANETS and other outer space-themed works by Sisask, Crumb and Lang

***Best of 2014: "a knock-your-socks off album of tremendous sonic import, with radiant performances to boot"***

- AUDIOPHILE AUDITION



**ZOFO PLAYS TERRY RILEY:** a special collaboration with the composer including original compositions, arrangements and a new work commissioned by ZOFO

***"ZOFO's feisty performances surge with athletic precision, always mindful of how much joy there is in the music"***

- WASHINGTON POST

## ABOUT KEISUKE



Keisuke Nakagoshi began his piano studies at the age of ten, arriving in the United States from Japan at the age of 18. Mr. Nakagoshi earned his Bachelor's degree in Composition and Masters Degree in Chamber Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Graduating as the recipient of multiple top awards, Keisuke was selected to represent the SFCM for the Kennedy Center's Conservatory Project, a program featuring the most promising young musicians from major conservatories across the United States.

Mr. Nakagoshi has performed as soloist to acclaim on prestigious concert stages across the United States, including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. He has received training from some of the most celebrated musicians of our time - Emanuel Ax, Gilbert Kalish, Menahem Pressler, Robert Mann, Paul Hersh and David Zinman.

Mr. Nakagoshi is Pianist-in-Residence at The San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

## ABOUT EVA



Dynamic Swiss pianist Eva-Maria Zimmermann maintains a robust career in Europe and the United States, offering performances that are "breathtakingly intense" (Der Bund) and "passionate and deeply expressive" (Berner Oberlander). Her solo appearances involve recitals as well as concerto performances with major symphonies, including the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.

Winner of the prestigious Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship, Ms. Zimmermann has appeared at international festivals worldwide, including the "Festival Piano en Saintonge" France, the "Sommerfestspiele Murten" Switzerland, and San Francisco's "Other Minds Festival of New Music." A graduate with highest honors from the Conservatory of Geneva, Eva-Maria has studied with many distinguished musicians - Leon Fleisher, György Sebök, Leonard Hokanson and Dominique Merlet, among others.

As an educator, Eva-Maria has been a faculty member of the University of San Francisco and currently teaches in the music program at the Nueva School in Hillsborough, CA, founded by Sir Yehudi Menuhin.

## SELECT PRESS QUOTES

**"...jaw-dropping awesome!"** - SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

**"What happens when you sit two internationally acclaimed solo pianists down at one piano? ...you get something energetically and electrifyingly out of this world."**

- BACHTRACK

It was clear from this performance alone that ZOFO have talent and artistry in abundance and over the coming years, they will surely add to their GRAMMY Award nominations, prestigious competition achievements and distinguished concert venue debuts.

**"ZOFO's feisty performances surge with athletic precision, always mindful of how much joy there is in the music."**

- WASHINGTON POST

**"ZOFO delivers the recital with technical elan and expressive spontaneity"**

- BALTIMORE SUN

**"There was something sensual and almost erotic about watching these two pianists weave upper limbs while performing so seamlessly as one."**

- SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

In five years of existence the dynamic piano duo ZOFO has racked up two GRAMMY nominations and a competition win. Perhaps more impressively, they've given 11 world premieres of commissioned works. They brought the latest of these, by William Bolcom, to Morrison Artists Series at SFSU on Sunday afternoon, while dazzling the audience in a program of contemporary works. All told, ZOFO has chemistry that makes musical and dramatic sparks ferociously fly.

**"Believe me, with the rapturous noise that these two make, with infinite gradations of perfectly placed dynamics, you will experience the piano in a whole new way."**

- AUDIOPHILE AUDITION

This astounding album completely took me by surprise. Normally I am averse—or at least *highly suspicious*—of piano four-hands, but ZOFO, or better yet, pianists Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi knocked my socks off with this recording.

***"The (Terry Riley) birthday offering of the four-hand piano duo ZOFO, which was a guest of the Kronos festival, is a dazzling disc of arrangements of Riley works.***

- LOS ANGELES TIMES

***"...vibrant, beautifully blended playing"***

- SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

The dynamic Bay Area piano duo of Keisuke Nakagoshi and Eva-Maria Zimmermann follows up its GRAMMY-nominated "Mind Meld" with a new CD marked by brilliant sound and a suave deployment of four hands at one piano.

***"Every recital they give never fails to astonish, but just as important is that every program they prepare has at least one item that never fails to amuse."***

- SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

The composition that best serves up astonishment and amusement in equal measure is most likely "Let's Play a Duet!" by Tomohiro Moriyama, (with its) intricate choreography of hand and arm crossings.

***"ZOFO players Eva-Maria Zimmerman and Keisuke Nakagoshi offer tour de force performances that convey the music with visceral impact, all captured in vivid recorded sound. If you like pianos, great playing, and engaging music, you owe it to yourself to hear this excellent disc."***

- CLASSICS TODAY

***"Four-hands-one-piano performances are a dime a dozen, but not the ZOFO way...in this CD their unusual combination of bravura and depth is obvious from the get-go...Simply gorgeous."***

- SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

The pianists have their distinct voices, but the combination is an integrated whole, similar to a great orchestra's fusion of individual instruments.

***"The sound quality is excellent, spacious and clear. Recommended."***

- FANFARE MAGAZINE

The best parts of this program are the pieces originally intended for the medium. Debussy's languorous *Épigraphs Antiques* are ideal for this duo, which responds winningly to the subtle colors and delicacy of the writing. I would go so far as to say this is the finest recording I know of this sensual work.