

## SMALL BIO for L&amp;V PIANO DUO

Concert Pianists Larisa Capatina and Vitali Mihailiuc have been playing together as the L&V Piano Duo for more than 15 years, and their long-term collaboration and cohesive individuality as an ensemble is often rewarded by praise from audiences regarding their precision, musical insight and depth of expression. Both Larisa and Vitali view playing classical music as a means to bring the joy and beauty of each work they perform to their listeners, evoking heartfelt reactions from people's feelings and forging deep inner connections with the music they play.

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## MEDIUM BIO for L&amp;V PIANO DUO

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For the L&V Piano Duo, the most important aspect of each performance is delighting and inspiring audiences, and they strive to make each performance multidimensional, nuanced and engaging. Both Larisa and Vitali view playing classical music as a means to bring the joy and beauty of each work they perform to their listeners, evoking heartfelt reactions from people's feelings and forging deep inner connections with the music they play.

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## FULL BIO for L&amp;V PIANO DUO

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Larisa and Vitali's musical journey started in the Republic of Moldova in the heart of its capital city Chisinau, where they both studied at the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts. Individually, both Larisa and Vitali studied with internationally acclaimed professors of piano L. Vaverco and S. Covalenco, of whom the pianistic careers, talents and personalities are still just as inspiring for both Larisa and Vitali as they were back when they were students. Alongside this individual inspiration, the L&V Piano Duo was also conceived at the Academy, when Larisa and Vitaly eventually took a Piano Duet class together in which their end of course assessment yielded top grades and high praise from their professors.

Upon completing their studies, in 2010 both Larisa and Vitali moved to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, where public debuts swiftly followed for the L&V Piano Duo. Larisa and Vitali regularly performed both solo and as a Duo at many recitals and charity events, as well working as accompanists for multiple opera productions. Most unusually for a Piano Duo, Larisa and Vitali both regularly perform together as an ensemble accompanying opera singers and their regular joint collaborations within the opera industry yielded many successful career turns throughout the next 10 years. Most notably was an opera production of Verdi's "La Traviata" where, as a duet, they provided the orchestral parts as accompaniment for three world-known singers; Italian soprano Monica De Rosa McKay, American tenor Mark Heller and Italian baritone Daniel Giulianini for two sold-out concerts at the Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre and at the Emirates Palace Auditorium in Abu-Dhabi. During their time in Dubai, other notable appearances for Larisa and Vitaly included performing with Soprano

Monica De Rosa McKay, and co-organizing a concert at the Madinat Theatre in Dubai; where they appeared both individually and as the L&V Duo accompanying opera overtures and arias.

L&V have also organized several other classical concerts in different Theaters of Dubai, including “The Rhythm of Music” in 2013, with brilliant accordion player Eugen Negruta, leader of the world-renowned and award-winning accordion ensemble “Concertino”. Following this particular encounter, inspired by the passion and emotion of the largely tango-style music for the accordion, Larisa and Vitali transcribed for their own piano duo several works for accordion ensemble by Piazzolla and Galliano, amongst other composers, organizing two concerts at the American School of Dubai and in the Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre which were received with great success.

In 2014, L&V presented their unique duo at the IBLA Grand Prize Competition in the town of Ragusa in Sicily, Italy and received several awards including Certificates of Recognition as “Most Distinguished” musicians and an ‘Emanuel Infante Special Mention’.

In 2024 Larisa and Vitali became 2nd prize winners of the United States Duo Piano Competition in Colorado Springs.

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