**Yoana Kyurkchieva**

A native of Bulgaria and also a Canadian citizen, Yoana Kyurkchieva has enjoyed a dynamic musical career as a concert pianist, accompanist, adjudicator, and teacher. Her solo and chamber music appearances include performances throughout Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, Germany, Holland, Greece, Russia, the United States and Canada. She has participated in masterclasses under renowned pedagogues such as Bozhidar Noev, Tamara Poddubnaya, Jania Aubakirova, Lazar Berman, Boris Bloch, and Menahem Pressler.

Yoana holds a Master of Music in Piano Performance, Chamber Music, Piano-Collaboration, and Pedagogy from the National Music Academy in Sofia (Bulgaria). She won a merit scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (United States) and earned her second Master of Music degree and the Postgraduate Professional Artist Certificate. Yoana has also won F.S. Chia Doctoral scholarship to attend the University of Alberta in Edmonton (Canada), and recently earned Doctor of Music degree. Her principal teachers include professor Atanas Kurtev, professor Eric Larsen, and professor Jacques Després.

Yoana is the recipient of prestigious piano competitions and scholarships worldwide including First Prize and the Edmonton Chamber Music Society in Edmonton; First Prize at the MTNA State Steinway Competition in Young Artist Piano, NC; First Prize at the Academy Chamber Music Competition in Bulgaria; Second Prize at the Long Island Conservatory in NYC; Third Prize at “The Seiler,” Competition in Bulgaria; First Prize at the Competition for French Music in Bulgaria; and Second Prize at the International Competition “Carl Filtch,” in Romania.

Currently Dr. Kyurkchieva is a certified piano teacher and practical examiner from The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM). She is maintaining full piano studio in Edmonton where she teaches students of all ages. Her students have received first class honors and medals in RCM exams, and have been also recognized through awards and scholarships at the local and provincial music festivals, competitions, and master classes across Canada and the United States (Carnegie Hall in NYC).