

## **Biography for Press Release**

Elena Casanova, a Cuban born pianist, has a passion for her native music. For most of her life, she has been bringing the soul of the Cuban Masters to audiences across the country. She studied at the Alejandro Garcia Caturla Music Conservatory in Havana, the San Francisco Conservatory, Pacific Union College, and graduated with her Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance from University of Redlands.

Casanova studied with Robert Bowman, Paul Glover, Annie Kim (a student of the Cuban pianist Jorge Bolet) Louanne Long, Maria D. "Marilola" (Vasquez) Robles, Tom Turinia, and Dr. Lynn Wheeler.

She has most recently performed the Poulenc Concerto for Two Pianos with Elizabeth MacDougall, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 "The Emperor" and Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1.

Her enthusiasm for the music of her country led her to record a piano solo album released on the MSR Label in 2005. Her album "Recordando" is a sampling of the Maestros of Cuban Classical Music.

In 2008 Elena recorded "Fuente Sin Igual" an album done as a gift to her father on his birthday. The album consists of improvisations on her favorite Spanish Hymns. Most recently Casanova has worked with Jim Stewart of Wine Country Films to produce and edit a number of live performances available on

DVD, which include the yearly sold out performances of the Professional Pianist Concert and most recently "Life at Acoustic Café" featuring singer/songwriter Marcos Pereda, Will Siegel on guitar and tiple, Steve Baird, on bass, Joel Cohen, cello and Amunka and Isa Dávila on percussion. She is also currently working on a new album "Music for my children", a compilation of works for young children by lesser-known Cuban composers Maria Emma Botet, Jose Fernández de Coca, Maria Matilde Alea, Enrique Guerrero, and others.

Casanova is a very active member of the community in Mendocino County, California. She is President of the Board of the Community Concert Association and donates her time and energy to promote organizations like the Alzheimer's Foundation, the Allegro Scholarship Fund, Arts in the School Program and many other music organizations in her community. She helps manage her husband's gastroenterology practice and enjoys teaching a handful of students that include her children Adrian and Briana.