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ONGAKU RECORDS RELEASES “REFLECTIONS” CD FEATURING AWARD-WINNING PIANIST RASA VITKAUSKAITE

Boston, MA — [Ongaku Records, Inc.](#) released *Reflections* (024-124), the debut solo CD of multiple-award-winning, Lithuanian pianist [Rasa Vitkauskaite](#). *Reflections* is an eclectic piano recital featuring two of the greatest gems of the repertoire by Maurice Ravel and Ludwig van Beethoven, paired with works by celebrated contemporary American composer Lowell Liebermann and twentieth-century Argentinean romantic Carlos Guastavino. According to Ms. Vitkauskaite, “Although the works originate from four different countries, three continents, and four completely different time periods and compositional styles, the concept of reflections, both in the literal and metaphorical sense, unifies this piano recital.”

Reflections features the following repertoire:

- **Maurice Ravel** *Miroirs*
- **Lowell Liebermann** *Gargoyles, Op. 29*
- **Ludwig van Beethoven** *Sonata in A Major, Op. 101*
- **Carlos Guastavino** *Sonatina in G Minor*

Also included with the CD is an extensively researched, highly informative, and well-sourced 24-page booklet featuring an article on Beethoven and his *Sonata Op. 101* by renowned scholar and biographer **Jan Swafford**, as well as insightful articles on the other works by Ms. Vitkauskaite, who proves herself to be not only a rising star in the piano world, but also a knowledgeable and talented writer.

As always, the new Ongaku CD features the award-winning engineering of Brad Michel. *Reflections* was recorded in the warm and crystal clear acoustics of the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, and it was produced, edited and mastered using the latest in digital recording technology throughout to preserve the pristine audiophile quality sound for which Ongaku Records has become known.

Reflections is available for sale at [Amazon](#), [CD Baby](#), [Ongaku Records](#), and many other quality outlets world-wide.

Later this summer, Ongaku Records will be releasing an all-American CD, titled *American Tribute* (024-125), featuring world-renowned clarinetist [Jonathan Cohler](#) and award-winning pianist Rasa Vitkauskaite. Known throughout the world as one of the foremost clarinet-piano duos, they dedicate the upcoming CD to the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013.

continued

Rasa Vitkauskaite

Winner of the Grand Prix at the Mendelssohn Cup Piano Competition in Italy, [Rasa Vitkauskaite](#) has won top prizes at many prestigious international piano competitions including First Prizes at Les Rencontres Internationales des Jeunes Pianistes (Belgium), the competition in Taurisano (Italy), and the Rubinstein Piano Competition (Paris). In 2007, Rasa won a Kathryn Wasserman Davis \$10,000 grant that supported her tour promoting peace in Israel. In her native country of Lithuania, Ms. Vitkauskaite has garnered the top prize at six national competitions. Recently, she was awarded the Westmont Fellowship at the Montecito International Music Festival in Santa Barbara, California.

Her most recent concert engagements include performances in China, South Korea, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, and the United States. Ms. Vitkauskaite has performed as soloist with the Kaunas, Latvian, Kaliningrad Philharmonic Orchestras, I Solisti di Perugia and the Boston Conservatory Orchestra. She has played at many festivals around the world including ones in Caracas (Venezuela), Taiyuan (China), Porto (Portugal), Kaunas (Lithuania), Moscow (Russia), Piano aux Pyrénées (France), and Music Fest Perugia (Italy).

Ms. Vitkauskaite is also very active as a chamber musician. She performs regularly with world-renowned clarinetist Jonathan Cohler. American Record Guide praised her “subtle musicianship and exceptional skill” on [Rhapsodie Française](#) (Ongaku 024-121), her 2008 debut CD with Mr. Cohler. Their second CD titled [Romanza](#) (Ongaku 024-123) features works by Schumann, Prokofiev and Guastavino. Recently, the duo recorded an all-American CD (to be released this season), in honor of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013. The duo also performed a live recital on WGBH radio, and was recently featured on Radio Vaticana in Italy.

Ms. Vitkauskaite began her music studies with Jūratė Prėskienytė at the Alytus Music School in Lithuania. At the age of 10, she left home to continue her studies with Jūratė Karosaitė at the National M.K.Čiurlionis School of Arts in Vilnius, from which she graduated with honors. She then won a scholarship to attend the United World College of the Adriatic in Italy, where she studied piano with Alberto Miodini and took chamber music lessons with members of the Trio di Trieste at the International Chamber Music School. Upon graduating, she was awarded the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma with the highest marks in music.

Subsequently, she completed her Bachelors and Masters Degrees at The Boston Conservatory, where she was a student of Michael Lewin, and where she won the H. Wilfred Churchill piano scholarship competition in both 2007 and 2008. She also completed a Graduate Performance Diploma with Randall Hodgkinson.

In addition to her active performing career, Ms. Vitkauskaite is a dedicated teacher with many students at the Concord Conservatory of Music, where she is a faculty member, and in her private studio. In 2013, she adjudicated the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association Bay State Contest. In 2009, she won a \$5000 Fellowes Athenaeum Fund grant and started a piano program for inner-city children in Boston.

Ms. Vitkauskaite also serves as the pianist of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra.

For more information, visit: <http://rasavitkauskaite.com/>.