

## AYKE AGUS

Concert Pianist and Violinist



Concert pianist and violinist, is and will be known as the last accompanist for the world renowned Russian violinist Jascha Heifetz, during the last seventeen years of his life.

A native of Indonesia, of Chinese, Dutch and Javanese ancestry, Ms. Agus was acclaimed as a child prodigy, who began her concert career at the age of 7 on both violin and piano. She came to the United States on scholarship to study violin and piano in Buffalo, New York. She was a first prize winner at many competitions and concurrently became the youngest member of the Buffalo Philharmonic. She was recommended for a full scholarship in the graduate program at the Juilliard School of Music. Instead, she auditioned for the Jascha Heifetz Masterclass at USC in Los Angeles and was accepted as a violin student with a full scholarship. Simultaneously, she was asked to be on the piano faculty at USC, a position she kept for 10 years. Upon the departure of the masterclass pianist, Mr. Heifetz had asked Ms. Agus to accept the position as the pianist of his Masterclass. Together with the

great Russian cellist Gregor Piatigorsky, and Jascha Heifetz, Ms. Agus performed as pianist in numerous chamber music concerts. Ms. Agus collaborated with Heifetz daily, and helped the Master complete many transcriptions for violin and piano which are now published. Following the Master's sketches and instructions, Ms. Agus had posthumously completed his transcription of Gershwin's *An American In Paris*, now published by Carl Fischer.

Regularly, all year around, she is a participant in chamber music festivals as violinist or pianist; performs with internationally noted groups such as the Ysaye String Quartet from Paris or the Jacques Thibaud Trio as guest pianist; her annual tours in Europe and Asia as recitalist bring highly praised reviews. Her most recent recordings for Protone Records include a piano solo disk called "Musical Mementos of Jascha Heifetz", "Ayke Agus Doubles" where she plays both piano and violin parts of many Heifetz transcriptions and an exclusive Schubert disk of Impromptus and the Fantasia for 4 hands, in which she plays both parts.

Ms. Agus is a member of the Pasadena Symphony and the California Philharmonic Orchestras and she holds masterclasses in the "Art of Collaboration" (what to expect from your accompanist). Her memoirs entitled "*Heifetz, As I Knew Him*", published by Amadeus Press, is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> printing. Ms. Agus travels by invitation all over the USA and abroad and gives masterclasses and presentations about the book, "Heifetz, the Man and the Legend" and "Heifetz, the Artist and the Legacy". Her London Royal Academy of Music presentation on Heifetz was over-subscribed and received rave reviews.

The Iowa City General Hospital has sponsored her to give a music workshop at the University of Iowa City, and a presentation at the Hospital for the Old Aging Study Program in "The Art of Care Giving". Ms. Agus is presently teaches strings and piano both privately and in the Public Schools in Pasadena; gives workshops throughout the city of LA. She performs in recitals as violinist and as pianist as well as soloist with orchestras and in her spare time she does volunteer work in the various hospitals as a Music for Healing Volunteer, playing for patients in their wards and rooms.

Ms Agus holds a Doctorate Degree from the University of Buffalo, New York.