

The Italian-American pianist Elenora Pertz was born in Cleveland, Ohio (USA). At 6 years old she received her first piano lessons, studied classical ballet and gained stage experience performing in musicals. In addition to many achievements as a solo pianist, Elenora started working with singers at an early age: she accompanied her church choir since the age of 9, and played her high school's musical productions. It was at this time that she became fascinated with the setting of texts to music, and realized her passion for working with singers—both on and off the stage.

In 2015 she graduated as Valedictorian of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tennessee, USA) with a double major in Piano Performance and European Studies. She then went on to study Vocal Accompanying at the Music and Art Private University of Vienna (Musik und Kunst Privatuniversität der Stadt Wien) under Dr. Carolyn Hague. She is finishing currently her second Masters degree in Lied Accompanying at the Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" Berlin in the class of Prof. Wolfram Rieger. Other crucial mentors and teachers include Prof. Susan Mannoff, Prof. Helmut Deutsch, and Thomas Lausmann.

An active recitalist, she has performed throughout America and Europe at venues such as the Musée d'Orsay (Paris), Brigitte Fassbaender's Eppaner Liedsommer, Snape Maltings (Aldeburgh), and the Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg. In 2019 she competed with bass baritone Jeeyoung Lim in Thomas Quasthoff's "Das Lied" competition in Heidelberg, where they were finalists and won the prize for "Most Promising Talent." She was a participant of the Franz Schubert Institute in Baden bei Wien, the Schubertiade Masterclass in Schwarzenberg, and the Hugo Wolf Akademie in Stuttgart. She is a Britten Pears, Leeds Lieder and Lied Basel Young Artist and a Stipendiatin of Yehudi Menuhin's Live Music Now. In her young career, she has already performed and worked with reputable artists such as KS Angelika Kirchschrager, KS Birgid Steinberger and KS Juan Diego Flórez. As a répétiteur she is a regular guest at the Komische Oper and Deutsche Oper Berlin, where she most recently served as Studienleiterin for Janáček's *Jenufa*.

Interested in Arts Administration, Elenora Pertz was the intern for the head of musical studies and casting director at the Vienna State Opera and an administrative assistant at Washington National Opera. This summer Elenora recorded her first CD with baritone Nikolay Borchev, containing unpublished lieder and chamber music by Engelbert Humperdinck. In Spring 2021 together with soprano Georgina Melville she will found the Lieder Ladies festival, whose aim is to give female lied artists the tools they need to create successful freelance careers.