



## Billings Gazette

*Billings, MT*

### **Carnegie Hall-bound piano duo to give performance Wednesday**

October 28, 2005

Duo pianists **Liza Hella** and **Kenneth Christensen** from Bozeman will present a fundraiser concert Wednesday at All About Pianos in Billings.

Their performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. with an admission charge of \$20. The program will feature works written for duo piano by Brahms, Gershwin, Rachmaninov and William Bolcom. The Billings performance is being produced to help raise funds for Hella and Christensen's Carnegie Hall recital debut, which is scheduled for April 24, 2006.

Their New York debut is being produced by MidAmerica Productions and will be performed in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. MidAmerica Productions inaugurated its Chamber and Solo Music Series in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1989.

Hella and Christensen have been combining their talents as duo pianists since the fall of 1997 and have been enthusiastically received by sold-out audiences throughout the Northwest and Midwest. As their repertoire expands with exciting works for two pianos, audiences continually describe their concerts as joyful, uplifting and inspirational. They have an uncanny ability to fuse their talents, forming a soulful connection amongst themselves, the music and the audience.

Pianist and teacher Christensen earned a music degree from Montana State University in Bozeman and completed the master of music degree in piano performance from the University of Montana. He has appeared as soloist and collaborative artist throughout his home state of Montana as well as the Pacific Northwest and Southern California. His international performances include China, the Philippines and England. He is Music Teachers National Association president for the Northwest Division.

Hella received a degree in piano performance from Lawrence University Conservatory of Music where she studied with Robert Below and graduated with honors. While living in Chicago, she completed post-graduate work in pedagogy and performance at the American Conservatory of Music. She has appeared as soloist in her home state of Minnesota, as well as Boston, Chicago and San Francisco, and performed in master classes with pianist David Bar Ilan.