

## **ANNAMARIA PENNELLA**

**Annamaria Pennella was born in Naples, Italy in 1923. She was an “enfant prodige”, starting piano at the age of 3, and earning a piano performance diploma from the prestigious Napoli Conservatory at the tender age of 13. Soon after, two legendary pianists and pedagogues such as Marguerite Long and Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli took her under their wing, and she was soon touring the world, performing with leading orchestras and conductors in Europe and America. Among the great conductors she collaborated with are Antal Dorati, Jonel Perlea, Eugene Ormandy, Francesco Molinari-Pradelli, Bernard Konz, Fabian Sevitzy, Michel Le Comte, and Hans Haug.**

**Annamaria Pennella always had a true passion for teaching. During the course of her life, this passion became the predominant aspect of her musical activities. Countless students benefited from her incredible pedagogical abilities at the Napoli Conservatory, and beyond. Many went on to significant careers as performing artists. Her devotion to her students, her integrity, honesty and goodness made the world a better place, in many different ways. I had the incredible honor and good fortune to be one of her students. It was life-changing, inspiring, and unforgettable. I am very thankful to Orazio Maione, Annamaria Pennella’s son, student, and fabulous pianist in his own right, for wanting to establish this scholarship to honor the memory of his mother. She was always about fostering talent, and bettering lives through music. We are happy to try and continue along that path.**

**Antonio Pompa-Baldi**