



## The Secret Piano: From Mao s Labor Camps to Bach s Goldberg Variations

By Zhu Xiao-Mei

BRILLIANCE AUDIO, 2016. CD-Audio. Condition: New. Unabridged. Language: English . Brand New. Zhu Xiao-Mei was three years old when she saw her first piano, a cherished instrument introduced into her family s Beijing home by her mother. Soon after, the child began to play, developing quickly into a prodigy who immersed herself in the work of such classical masters as Bach and Brahms. Her astonishing proficiency earned her a spot at the Beijing Conservatory at the tender age of eleven, where she began laying the foundation for a promising career as a concert pianist. But in 1966, with the onset of the Cultural Revolution, life as she knew it ended abruptly. The Communist Party s campaign against culture forced the closure of art schools and resulted in the deportation of countless Chinese, including Xiao-Mei and her entire family. She spent five years in a work camp in Inner Mongolia, suffering under abysmal living conditions and a brutal brainwashing campaign. Yet through it all, Xiao-Mei kept her dream alive, drawing on the power of music to sustain her courage.

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