

## Jade Simmons

The uncommon artist Jade Simmons has been called a "musical force of nature" who takes her audiences on concert adventures that go from Rachmaninoff (Rock-mawn-nih-off) to Rap. Essence magazine featured her as a part of their Style & Substance List, and right out of grad school at Rice University, Ebony magazine placed her on their Top 30 Leaders Under 30 List.

While still an undergrad at Northwestern University, she became Miss Chicago, Miss Illinois, and ultimately 1st runner-up at Miss America where she served as a national advocate for Youth Suicide Prevention. Her face has been seen as the webcast host of the prestigious Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, her voice has been heard as co-host on an episode of Performance Today with Fred Child, her writing is featured in the Huffington Post, and you can currently hear her fingers at work in a new documentary about the legendary Nina Simone.

As an acclaimed concert pianist, she's played renowned halls and even the hallowed ones of both the White House and the US Supreme Court. Most recently, she has been tapped to star in a new musical and PBS documentary about the legendary Concert Jazz pianist, Lillette Harris.

Even in a traditional industry, Jade's built a colorful career characterized by what she calls Maverick Behavior. Her buzz word is "momentum" and on this occasion she is thrilled to be speaking to you today about how to unleash it in life and business.

Please welcome to the stage, Classical Music's "No.1 Maverick", Jade Simmons.