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## Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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The Department of Music  
Presents in Concert  
Faculty Artist

**Richard Becker**  
piano

February 7, 2016

3 p.m.

Booker Hall of Music, Camp Concert Hall

**MUSIC.RICHMOND.EDU**

## PROGRAM

Invention (1999)

Richard Becker

Dance (1999)

b. 1943

Three Bavarian Sketches (2015)

Becker

*Moderato*

*Allegretto*

*Toccata*

Préludes, premier livre

Claude Debussy

1. *Danseuses de Delphes: Lent et grave*  
(Dancers of Delphi)

(1862 – 1918)

2. *Voiles: Modéré*  
(Veils / Sails)

3. *Le Vent dans la plaine: Animé*  
(The Wind on the Plain)

7. *Ce qu'a vu le vent d'ouest: Animé et tumultueux*  
(What the West Wind Has Seen)

4. *“Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir”: Modéré*  
(“Sounds and fragrances swirl through the evening air”)

~ INTERMISSION ~

*Please silence cell phones, digital watches, and paging devices before the concert.*

Preludes, Op. 28

Frédéric François Chopin  
(1810 – 1849)

1. *Agitato* in C Major
2. *Lento* in A Minor
3. *Vivace* in G Major
4. *Largo* in E Minor
5. *Molto allegro* in D Major
6. *Lento assai* in B Minor
7. *Andantino* in A Major
8. *Molto agitato* in F-sharp Minor
9. *Largo* in E Major
10. *Molto allegro* in C-sharp Minor
11. *Vivace* in B Major
12. *Presto* in G-sharp Minor
13. *Lento* in F-sharp Minor
14. *Allegro* in E-flat Minor
15. *Sostenuto* in D-flat Major
16. *Presto con fuoco* in B-flat Minor
17. *Allegretto* in A-flat Major
18. *Molto allegro* in F Minor
19. *Vivace* in E-flat Major
20. *Largo* in C Minor
21. *Cantabile* in B-flat Major
22. *Molto agitato* in G Minor
23. *Moderato* in F Major
24. *Allegro appassionato* in D Minor



Coordinator of piano studies at the University of Richmond, **Richard Becker** is a pianist, composer, and chamber musician whose playing has been acclaimed in Europe and America. Playing on college campuses, he has frequently toured the eastern United States. Becker has performed at New York's Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, 92nd Street Y, and Carnegie Hall; Washington DC's Library of Congress and National Gallery of Art; at the French Embassy; and at Hatch Hall of the Eastman School of Music

*Continued ...*

(2015). In Paris, he performed at Salle Cortot as First Prize Laureate of the French Piano Institute (1996), at l'École Normale de Musique, and at Salle Edmund Michelet, a venue of the Cité Internationale des Arts, where he has been a frequent artist-in-residence. Becker's playing has been described as "powerful" by the *Washington Post*, "admirable in taste and technique" by the *New York Times*, and "brilliant with seamless passagework and elegant phrasing" by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. His playing is grounded in the tradition of Arthur Schnabel, acquired during his study with Leonard Shure while at Boston University (M. Mus.). His teaching owes much to the methods of Tobias Matthay, learned from Cecile Staub Genhart during his years at the Eastman School of Music (B.Mus. and Performers Certificate). Becker taught at the University of Texas and Boston University prior to joining the faculty at University of Richmond. Becker's performances and his own music have been broadcast on NPR, Voice of America, WNYC, WETA, WGMS, and WCVE, and have been featured during a Marshall University Artist Residency, at National Conferences of the Music Teachers National Association, at CMS-Mid-Atlantic, at Brattleboro Chamber Festival, at the American Music Festival of the National Gallery, and at the James Madison University Contemporary Music and the Roxbury (NY) Music Festivals. Becker has been a MacDowell Colony Fellow and a nominee for an American Academy of Arts and Letters award in composition. He has received Meet the Composer Grants, Contemporary Music Studio grants, and critical acclaim in the press for his compositions. Most recently, Becker was named the 2016 recipient of the VMTA Commissioned Composition Award.

Next month Becker's compositions will be featured at the University of South Florida's 2016 New Music Festival, together with those of nineteen other composers from around the world, including Robert Morris, the Festival's honoree. Morris, a celebrated Eastman composer, has observed that Becker's piano music "integrates Schoenberg and Debussy in a way never heard before — its natural and supple eclecticism fits well into the type of new music called post-modern, but it also has aspects of modernism, especially the expressionistic variety." Since 1993, Becker's poetry has been read in journals such as *America Magazine*, *Columbia*, *Cold Mountain Review*, and *The Literary Review*. His poetry was again featured in *America Magazine* in July 2015. His playing and music can be heard on CRS and Albany Records.



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