

2-1-2015

## Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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Concert Series  
SPRING 2015

MUSIC

*Presents in Concert*

**Richard Becker, piano**

**Sunday, February 1, 2015**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Booker Hall of Music, Camp Concert Hall**

**MUSIC.RICHMOND.EDU**

# PROGRAM

Rondo in A Minor, K. 511

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
1756 - 1791

Sonata in C Major, Op. 53

Ludwig van Beethoven  
1770 - 1827

*Allegro con brio*

*Introduzione. Adagio molto*

*Rondo. Allegretto moderato – Prestissimo*

*Images, Book I*

Claude Debussy  
1862 - 1918

*Reflets dans l'eau*

Nocturne in B Minor, Op. 9, No. 1

Frédéric François Chopin  
1811 - 1849

Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op. 27, No. 2

Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60

Variations on a Theme by Paganini,

Johannes Brahms  
1833 - 1897

Op. 35, Book I

Theme: *Non troppo presto*

Variation I.

Variation II.

Variation III.

Variation IV.

Variation V.

Variation VI.

Variation VII.

Variation VIII.

Variation IX.

Variation X.

Variation XI. *Andante*

Variation XII.

Variation XIII.

Variation XIV. *Allegro, Presto ma non troppo*

***A reception in the lobby will immediately follow the performance.***

Richard Becker, Coordinator of Piano Studies at the University of Richmond, 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; and at the French Embassy. In Paris he performed at the Salle Cortot as First Prize Laureate of the French Piano Institute (1996), at l'École Normale de Musique, and at the Salle Edmond Michelet (1997, 2006), a venue of the Cité Internationale des Arts, where he has been a frequent artist-in-residence. As a composer, Becker has been a MacDowell Colony Fellow and was a nominee for an American Academy of Arts and Letters award.

His performances and his own music have been broadcast on NPR, Voice of America, WNYC, WETA, WGMS, and WCVE, and have also 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 received grants from Meet the Composer and Contemporary Music Studio, as well as critical acclaim in the press. His 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*.

Becker's 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 the University of Richmond.

*Continued...*

In recent years, Becker's poetry has been published in journals such as *America*, *Columbia*, *Visions-International*, and *Cold Mountain*, and his poetic sequence, *FATES*, appeared as a chapbook of *The Literary Review* (Summer 2008) in print and online. His compositions have been recorded on CRS and his piano performances on Albany Records.



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