

3-19-2017

Richard Becker and Doris Wylee-Becker, pianos

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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Free Music Concert Series

The Department of Music
Presents in Concert

Richard Becker, *piano*
Doris Wylee-Becker, *piano*

Sunday, March 19, 2017
3 p.m.

Camp Concert Hall,
Booker Hall of Music



MUSIC.RICHMOND.EDU

PROGRAM

Variations on a Theme of Corelli, op. 42

Sergei Rachmaninov

Theme: *Andante*

(1873–1943)

I. *Poco più mosso*

II. *Listesso tempo*

III. *Tempo di menuetto*

IV. *Andante*

V. *Allegro ma non tanto*

VI. *Listesso tempo*

VII. *Vivace*

VIII. *Adagio misterioso*

IX. *Un poco più mosso*

X. *Allegro scherzando*

XI. *Allegro vivace*

XII. *Listesso tempo*

XIII. *Agitato*

Intermezzo

XIV. *Andante (come prima)*

XV. *Listesso tempo*

XVI. *Allegro vivace*

XVII. *Meno mosso*

XVIII. *Allegro con brio*

XIX. *Più mosso: Agitato*

XX. *Più mosso*

Coda: *Andante*

Doris Wylee-Becker, *piano*

Variations on a Theme of Paganini

Witold Lutosławski

(1913–1994)

Richard Becker, *piano*

Doris Wylee-Becker, *piano*

– Intermission –

Bartók-Ligeti Piano Variations

Richard Becker

(b. 1943)

Doris Wylee-Becker, *piano*

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

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, op. 43

Rachmaninov

Introduction: *Allegro vivace*

Variation I: (*Precedente*)

Theme: *Listesso tempo*

Variation II: *Listesso tempo*

Variation III: *Listesso tempo*

Variation IV: *Più vivo*

Variation V: *Tempo precedente*

Variation VI: *Listesso tempo*

Variation VII: *Meno mosso, a tempo moderato*

Variation VIII: *Tempo I*

Variation IX: *Listesso tempo*

Variation X: *Poco marcato*

Variation XI: *Moderato*

Variation XII: *Tempo di minuetto*

Variation XIII: *Allegro*

Variation XIV: *Listesso tempo*

Variation XV: *Più vivo scherzando*

Variation XVI: *Allegretto*

Variation XVII: (*Allegretto*)

Variation XVIII: *Andante cantabile*

Variation XIX: *Listesso tempo*

Variation XX: *Un poco più vivo*

Variation XXI: *Un poco più vivo*

Variation XXII: *Marziale. Un poco più vivo (Alla breve)*

Variation XXIII: *Listesso tempo*

Variation XXIV: *A tempo, un poco meno mosso*

Doris Wylee-Becker, *piano*

Richard Becker, *piano*

– Encore –

Invention in C Major, BWV 772

Johann Sebastian Bach

Invention in D Minor, BWV 775

(1685–1750)

Sonatina, op. 39, no. 1

Frank Lynes

Allegro

(1853–1913)

Minuetto

Ilana Becker, *piano*

Continued...

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 (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. As the 2016 recipient of the VMTA Commissioned Composition Award, Becker's 2016 composition, *Bartók-Ligeti Piano Variations* was premiered at the VMTA Festival last October at Shenandoah Conservatory by its dedicatee, Doris Wylee-Becker, who is giving its Richmond premiere performance this afternoon.

Becker's compositions were recently 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." After hearing Becker's piano recital at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York last October Morris honored Becker by composing for him a work entitled "Inner Voices" which the composer calls a "musical poem" in twelve stanzas that Becker plans to premiere in the near future. Since 1993, Becker's poetry has been read in journals such as *America Magazine*, *Columbia*, *The Baltimore Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, and *The Literary Review*. His playing and music can be heard on CRS and Albany Records and most recently at *Columbia Journal Online*.

Pianist **Doris Wylee-Becker** received her B.A. from the University of Richmond and M. Mus from Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. She has studied and performed at Aspen Music Festival, PianoSummer at New Paltz, and Chautauqua Music Festival. She currently teaches piano at University of Richmond, Collegiate School, and privately at home.

Pianist **Ilana Becker**, age 7, is in second grade. She received her own piano for her 5th birthday, and she's been playing the piano ever since. In addition to piano, she also does ballet, tennis, and swimming. She enjoys reading, art, singing, baking, and playing with Muffin, her 20-month-old golden retriever puppy.

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David Niethamer, conductor

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Bruce Stevens, organ

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UR Symphony Orchestra

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Thursday, April 6 | 7:30 p.m.

UR Schola Cantorum and Women's Chorale

Sunday, April 9 | 3 p.m.

UR Jazz and Contemporary Combos

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UR Chamber Ensembles

Monday, April 17 | 7:30 p.m.



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