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Stephen Drury, pianist

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Presents

Stephen Drury, *pianist*

Thursday, April 1, 2010
7:30 p.m.

PERKINSON RECITAL HALL
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

*Tonight's performance is made possible in part by the
University of Richmond Cultural Affairs Committee.*



Biography

Pianist and conductor **STEPHEN DRURY** has performed throughout the world with a repertoire that stretches from Bach to Liszt to the music of today. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Barbican Centre and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Cité de la Musique in Paris, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus, and from Arkansas to Seoul. A champion of contemporary music, he has taken the sound of dissonance into remote corners of Pakistan, Greenland, and Montana.

In 1985, Stephen Drury was chosen by Affiliate Artists for its Xerox Pianists Program and performed in residencies with symphony orchestras in San Diego, Cedar Rapids, San Angelo, Spokane, and Stamford. He has since performed or recorded with the American Composers Orchestra, the Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna Radio Orchestra, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Boston Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, the Springfield (Massachusetts) and Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestras, and the Romanian National Symphony. Drury was a prize-winner in the Carnegie Hall/Rockefeller Foundation Competitions in American Music and was selected by the United States Information Agency for its Artistic Ambassador Program and 1986 European recital tour. A second tour in the fall of 1988 took him to Pakistan, Hong Kong, and Japan. He gave the first piano recitals ever in Julianehaab, Greenland, and Quetta, Pakistan. The National Endowment for the Arts awarded Drury a Solo Recitalist Fellowship in 1989, funding residencies and recitals of American music for two years. That same year he was named "Musician of the Year" by the *Boston Globe*.

Stephen Drury's performances of music written in the last hundred years and ranging from the piano sonatas of Charles Ives to works by György Ligeti, Frederic Rzewski and John Cage have received the highest critical acclaim. Drury has worked closely with many of the leading composers of our time—Cage, Ligeti, Rzewski, Steve Reich, Olivier Messiaen, John Zorn, Luciano Berio, Helmut Lachenmann, Christian Wolff, Jonathan Harvey, Michael Finnissy, Lee Hyla and John Luther Adams. Drury has appeared at the MusikTriennale Koln in Germany, the Subtropics Festival in Miami, and the North American New Music Festival in Buffalo as well as at Roulette, the Knitting Factory, Tonic and The Stone in New York. At Spoleto USA, the Angelica Festival in Bologna and Oberlin Conservatory he performed as both conductor and pianist. He has conducted the Britten Sinfonia in England, the Santa Cruz New Music Works Ensemble, and the Harvard Group for New Music. In 1988–1989 he organized a year-long festival of the music of John Cage, leading to a request from the composer to perform the solo piano part in Cage's *101*, premiered with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in April, 1989. In 2009, Drury performed the solo piano part in the Fourth Symphony of Charles Ives, again with the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Alan Gilbert. Choreographer Merce Cunningham invited him to perform onstage in 1999 with Cunningham and Mikhail Barishnikov as part of the Lincoln Center Festival. Drury has also appeared in

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Program

7 Music Walk

13:55 - 22:16

John Cage
(1912-1992)

Tilbury

3:24 - 11:47

Christian Wolff
(b. 1934)

Dream

22:40? - 32:17

John Cage

Intermission

Cheap Imitation

John Cage

46:44 - 1:20:20

around 254 left mic channel distortion... levels
were not too high.



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

New York at Alice Tully Hall as part of the Great Day in New York Festival and Bargemusic series, in Boston with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players and soloist with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and with the Seattle Chamber Players in Seattle and Moscow at the International Music Festival "Images of Contemporary American Music". In 2003, Drury performed and taught at the Mannes College of Music's Beethoven Institute; in 2005 he returned to Mannes to play and teach at the Institute and Festival for Contemporary Performance. He was also the piano faculty that summer at the Bang on a Can Summer Institute. In 2006, Drury's performance of Frederic Rzewski's "The People United Will Never Be Defeated!" at the Gilmore Keyboard Festival was a sensation; he was invited back in 2008 to premiere Rzewski's Natural Things with the Opus 21 Ensemble at the Gilmore Festival in Michigan and Carnegie's Zankel Hall in New York as part of the composer's 70th birthday. That same summer, Stephen appeared at Bard College's Summerscape Festival, and at the Cité de la Musique in Paris for a week-long celebration of the music of John Zorn. In 2007 he was invited to León, Mexico, to perform music by Rzewski, Zorn and Cage at the International Festival of Contemporary Art.

Drury has commissioned new works for solo piano from John Cage, John Zorn, John Luther Adams, Terry Riley, and Chinary Ung with funding provided by Meet The Composer. He has performed with Zorn in Paris, Vienna, London, Brussels, and New York, and conducted Zorn's music in Bologna, Boston, Chicago, and in the UK and Costa Rica. In March of 1995 he gave the first performance of Zorn's concerto for piano and orchestra *Aporias* with Dennis Russell Davies and the Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra. Later that same season he gave the premiere of *Basic Training* for solo piano, written for him by Lee Hyla. Drury has recorded the music of John Cage, Elliott Carter, Charles Ives, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Colin McPhee, John Zorn, John Luther Adams and Frederic Rzewski, as well as works of Liszt and Beethoven, for Mode, New Albion, Catalyst, Tzadik, Avant, MusicMasters, Cold Blue, New World and Neuma.

Stephen Drury has given master classes at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Mannes Beethoven Institute, Oberlin Conservatory, in Japan, Romania, Argentina, Costa Rica, Denmark, and throughout the United States. He has adjudicated for the Concert Artist Guild, Gaudeamus, and Orléans Concours International de Piano XXème Siècle Competitions. Drury is artistic director and conductor of the Callithumpian Consort, and he created and directs the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice at New England Conservatory. He earned his undergraduate degree for Harvard College and has also earned the New England Conservatory's select Artist Diploma. His teachers have included Claudio Arrau, Patricia Zander, William Masselos, Margaret Ott, and Theodore Lettvin. Drury currently teaches at the New England Conservatory, where he has directed festivals of the music of John Cage, Steve Reich, and (in 2010) Christian Wolff.

