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Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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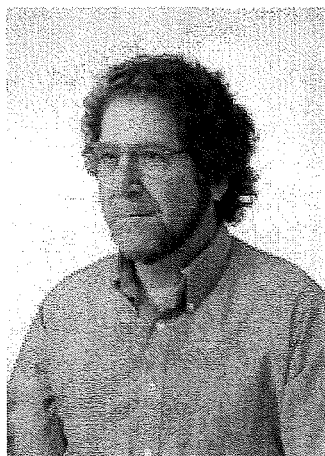
Richard Becker, piano



MARCH 17, 2002, 3:00 PM
CAMP CONCERT HALL
BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC

Pianist

Richard Becker, Associate Professor of Music at University of Richmond and Head of Piano, is a piano recitalist, composer, chamber musician and poet who has performed at over sixty colleges and at venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, the Library of Congress, the National Gallery, the French Embassy (Wash., D.C.), at Cité Internationale des Arts, and Salle Cortot, Paris. His playing has been broadcast on NPR, Voice of America, WNYC, and WETA, and WGMS. His performance on a CRI CD of piano works by the acclaimed American composer David Chaitkin is forthcoming.



Becker holds degrees from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music where he studied piano with Cecile Staub Genhart and from Boston University where for four years he was assistant to one of Artur Schnabel's leading exponents, Leonard Shure. Additional piano studies were with Rudolph Serkin during Becker's residency at the Serkin's Institute for Young Performing Musicians, with Adele Marcus in New York, and most recently with French repertoire specialists Roy Howat, Gail Delente, and Noel Lee. His performances at the 1996 French Piano Institute, held that season at the famed l'École Normal de Musique de Paris, earned Richard Becker a First Prize and subsequent recital appearance at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Composer

A recipient of "Meet the Composer" grants, a fellow at the MacDowell Colony, and a Nominee for a Music Award by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Becker has composed music that has been commissioned and performed by the Peabody Piano Trio, cellist James Wilson and pianist Joanne Kong, pianist Nancy Burton Garrett, by the Richmond Symphony Woodwind Quintet, the Richmond Symphony Woodwind Trio, Roxbury Players, Rochester, N.Y.'s Hillel Society, and University of Richmond's Schola Cantorum among others at such venues as Tanglewood Music Festival, Peabody Conservatory, National Gallery of Art, Boston's Gardner Museum, Boston University School of the Arts, James Madison University, University of Texas, Williams College, Bennington College, l'École Nor-

mal du Musique, Cité Internationale des Arts of Paris, France, the Eastman School of Music, and frequently at the University of Richmond. The world premiere of his single movement work for piano and cello, *Crossing Pont Marie* (1997-99), has been hailed as "AN ABSOLUTE TRIUMPH." *Richmond Times Dispatch* (2000).

Also a chamber performer, Richard Becker has appeared at such venues as Carnegie Hall, 92nd St. Y, Washington University of St. Louis, Brattleboro Music Center, Carpenter Center, and at Harvard University and Williams College. Some of the artists with whom he has collaborated are the Shanghai Quartet, Richmond Sinfonia, Judith Serkin, vocalists Kathy Koan, Nan Nall, and Suzanne Stevens, violinists, Phil Lewis and with Wei Gang Li, Hong Gang Li of the Shanghai Quartet, with violist, Zheng Wang, and cellists James Wilson and Andor Toth Jr.

Poet

Poetry by Richard Becker has appeared in *AMERICA*, *Columbia*, *Visions International*, and numbers of other nationally circulated magazines and journals since 1993.

"BECKER SUMMED UP DEBUSSY'S MUSICAL EYES, EARS, AND TEMPERAMENT." *Richmond Times Dispatch* (1999) "A STELLAR PERFORMANCE" "NO OBSTACLE INTRUDED BETWEEN ARTIST AND AUDIENCE...HAD HIS AUDIENCE GASPING." *Bennington Banner* (1980). "POWERFUL INTERPRETATIONS." *Washington Post* (1983) "ADMIRABLE IN TASTE AND TECHNIQUE." Donal Henahan, *New York Times* (1980). "BRILLIANT PIANO PLAYING....SEAMLESS PASSAGE WORK...CRYSTALLINE TECHNIQUE..ELEGANT PHRASING." *Richmond Times Dispatch* (2001)

2001-02 Modlin Center Events

Call 289-8980 for ticket information

Chanticleer

Monday, March 18, 2002, 7:30 pm
Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music

Grammy Award-winning Chanticleer, the only full-time classical vocal ensemble in the United States, has developed a remarkable reputation over its 22-year history for its interpretation of vocal literature, from Renaissance to jazz, and from gospel to venturesome new music.

Student Recital

Mindy Christensen, clarinet
Tara Arness, flute
March 23, 2002, 7:30 pm
Perkinson Recital Hall
No tickets required.

Weigang Li, violin, and Rieko Aizawa, piano
Monday, March 25, 2002, 7:30 pm
Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music

Shanghai Quartet violinist for over 18 years, Weigang Li breaks out of the Quartet for a joint recital with guest artist Rieko Aizawa.

University Jazz Ensemble

Kevin Harding, guest director
Wednesday, March 27, 2002, 7:30 pm
Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music

Adjunct faculty member and guitarist Kevin Harding will lead the University Jazz Ensemble for its Spring concert. No tickets required

Roberta Alexander, soprano

Monday, April 1, 2002, 7:30 pm
Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music
Sponsored in part by the University of Richmond Cultural Affairs Committee and the Department of Music

Among the most compelling singing actresses of our time, American soprano Roberta Alexander enjoys international renown for her riveting, incisive characterizations and miraculous vocal and dramatic range.