

3-23-2003

## Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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# Richard Becker, piano



MARCH 23, 2003, 3:00 PM  
CAMP CONCERT HALL  
BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC



*Richard Becker*, Associate Professor of Music and Head of Piano Studies at the University of Richmond, is a 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 and the French Embassy in Washington. Abroad, he has performed at Cité Internationale des Arts, and in Salle Cortot, Paris. His solo playing has been broadcast on NPR, Voice of America, WNYC, and WETA, and WGMS. His performance on a CRI CD of piano works of the ac-

claimed 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 he was assistant to Leonard Shure. Additional piano studies have been with Rudolph Serkin, Leon Fleisher, and most recently with Roy Howat and Noel Lee.

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, the Richmond Symphony Woodwind Quintet, the Richmond Symphony Woodwind Trio, and the Roxbury Players Clarinet Quintet. His works have appeared at such venues as the Tanglewood Music Festival, Peabody Conservatory, National Gallery of Art, the Gardner Museum, Boston University School of the Arts, James Madison University, University of Texas, Williams College, Bennington College, l'Ecole Normal 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 large, single movement work for piano and cello, "Crossing Pont Marie" (1997-99), was hailed as "An Absolute Triumph" by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

As a chamber performer, Mr. Becker has appeared at such venues as Carnegie Hall, the 92nd St. Y, Washington University of St. Louis, Brattleboro Music Center, the Carpenter Center, and at Harvard University and Williams College. Some of the artists with whom he has collaborated are the Shanghai Quartet, the 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, violist, Zheng Wang, and cellists James Wilson and Andor Toth Jr.

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

... PROGRAM ...

Opening Remarks

5:10

Getty Square\*  
(2003)

Becker

Impromptus, D. 899, op. 90  
(1827)

Schubert

14:08 no. 2 in E-flat major  
20:03 no. 3 in G-flat major  
26:40 no. 4 in A-flat minor/A-flat major

... INTERMISSION ...

Image, Première Serie  
(1905)

Debussy

50:40 Reflets dans l'eau  
57:15 Hommage à Rameau  
64:18 Mouvement

Sonata in B minor  
20:22 (1852)

Liszt

\*Premier

# Spring 2003 Performances

## **Chorovaya Akademia**

**Monday, March 24, 2003, 7:30 pm**

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

The brilliant all-male a cappella choir Chorovaya Akademia (meaning Choral Academy) was founded in Moscow in 1989 under Artistic Director and Conductor Alexander Sedov. This 16-member ensemble, returning to Richmond for a command performance, draws upon Russia's superb thousand-year tradition of choral music. It exists to "champion" the exceptional repertoire of the Russian Orthodox Church alongside secular works of the last three centuries by some of Russia's greatest composers. Chorovaya Akademia's repertoire includes traditional Russian orthodox music of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, secular works of Russian composers, folk pieces from the comic opera to the meditative, and choral works of Western composers, including Schubert, Saint-Saëns and Gershwin. (289-8980 for ticket information.)

## **Paul Hanson, piano**

**Wednesday, March 26, 2003, 7:30 pm**

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

Adjunct music faculty member Paul Hanson performs music by Schoenberg, Scriabin, and Schubert. (Free and open to the public.)

## **University Jazz Ensemble**

**Mike Davison, *director***

**Monday, March 31, 2003, 7:30 pm**

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

Join the University of Richmond Jazz Ensemble for an evening of big band dance music. The group will perform the music of Ellington, Basie, Miller, Goodman and many others. (Free and open to the public)

## **Intercollegiate Orchestra**

**James Wilson, *director***

**Wednesday, April 2, 2003, 7:30 pm**

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

Richmond's only intercollegiate orchestra presents a concert featuring Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 in D minor, the "Reformation" Symphony. Join students from Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond for their annual spring concert. (Free and open to the public.)