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Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Richard Becker, *piano*



FEBRUARY 4, 2007
CAMP CONCERT HALL, BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC

BIOGRAPHY



Richard Becker, Associate Professor of Music and coordinator of piano study at University of Richmond, is a recitalist, composer and chamber musician whose pianism has been praised in Europe and America. In addition to frequent tours of college campuses, he has performed at New York's Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, 92nd Street Y, Carnegie Hall and at Washington D.C.'s Library of Congress, National Gallery, and French Embassy. In Paris he de Musique, at Salle Edmund Michellet of the Cité Internationale des Arts as frequent Artist in Residence, and was first prize laureate at the French Piano Institute. His performances and compositions have been broadcast on NPR, Voice of America, WNYC, WETA, WGMS, and WCVE. His playing is 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 1980 set of piano compositions, *Five Mementos* has been recorded by Nancy Burton Garrett for Contemporary Recording Society (CRS) and his piano performance of David Chaitkin's *Impromptu* and *Three Dances* has recently been released by Albany Records.

Richard Becker's piano playing is grounded in the traditions 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 which he learned through his study with Cecile Staub Genhart during his years at Eastman School of Music (B.Mus. and Performers Certificate). Richard Becker has been a member of the Department of Music faculty at University of Richmond since 1975.

PROGRAM

Sonata in A minor, D. 784 (1823)

Allegro giusto

Andante

Allegro vivace

Franz Schubert

(1797 – 1828)

Miroirs (1905)

Noctuelles

Oiseaux tristes

Une barque sur l'océan

Alborada del gracioso

La vallée des cloches

Maurice Ravel

(1875 – 1937)

-- Intermission --

Waltzes (2006)

Richard Becker

(b. 1943)

Preludes, Book II (1912 – 1913)

Brouillards

Ondine

Feux d'artifice

Claude Debussy

(1862 – 1918)

Impromptu (1989)

David Chaitkin

(b. 1938)

Three Dances (1998)

Dance 1, *Moderato con moto*

Dance 2, "Nice Moves"

Chaitkin

Reception to follow in the lobby of Booker Hall of Music

“BECKER SUMMED UP DEBUSSY’S EYES,
EARS, AND TEMPERAMENT.”

(Richmond Times Dispatch, 1999).

“A STELLAR PERFORMANCE....

NO OBSTACLE INTRUDED BETWEEN ARTIST
AND AUDIENCE....LEFT HIS AUDIENCE GASPING.”

(Bennington Banner).

“...POWERFUL INTERPRETATIONS...”

(Washington Post).

“...ADMIRABLE IN TASTE AND TECHNIQUE...”

(Donal Henahan, New York Times).

“BRILLIANT PIANIST....

SEAMLESS PASSAGE WORK....

ELEGANT PHRASING.... CRYSTALINE TECHNIQUE...”

(Richmond Times Dispatch, 2001).