

2-3-2008

## Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

Presents

**Richard Becker, *piano***

**Sunday, February 3, 2008**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Booker Hall of Music**

**Camp Concert Hall**



**R**ichard Becker, coordinator of piano study at University of Richmond, is a recitalist, composer and chamber musician whose playing has been acclaimed in Europe and America. He has frequently toured the eastern United States, giving over a hundred recitals on college campuses, playing 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 performed at Salle Cortot, l'École Normale de Musique, at Salle Edmund Michelet of the Cité Internationale des Arts as frequent Artist-in-Residence, and at the French Piano Institute as first prize laureate. 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*.

Becker's repertoire is made up of masterworks from the standard repertoire which he often presents side by side with music by contemporary composers. His 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, learned from Cecile Staub Genhart during his years at Eastman School of Music (B.Mus. and Performers Certificate). Richard Becker taught at University of Texas and Boston University prior to joining the faculty at University of Richmond.

Also a poet, in recent years Richard Becker's work has appeared in journals such as *America*, *Columbia*, *Visions-International* and *Cold Mountain*. His *FATES*, a long poem in nine sections, is currently an online chapbook published by *The Literary Review*.

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"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...crystalline technique."  
-*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 2001

## *Program*

- Sonata in D Minor, Op. 31, No. 2 "Tempest" Ludwig van Beethoven  
Largo-Allegro (1770-1827)  
Adagio  
Allegretto
- Sonata in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3 Beethoven  
Allegro con brio  
Adagio  
Scherzo: Allegro  
Allegro assai

## *Intermission*

- Preludes, Book One Claude Debussy  
Danseuses de Delphes (1862-1918)  
Le vent dans la plaine  
La fille aux cheveux de lin  
Ce qu'a vu le vent d'ouest
- Nocturne in B-Flat Minor, Op. 9, No. 1 Frédéric François Chopin  
(1810-1849)
- Etudes, Op. 10 Chopin  
No. 9, F Minor  
No. 5, G-flat Major "Black Key"
- Ballade in G Minor, Op. 23 Chopin

*Fall 2007—Spring 2008*  
*Department of Music Free Events*  
*Camp Concert Hall, unless otherwise noted*

Anne Guthmiller, *soprano*  
Dmitri Shteinberg, *piano*  
Sunday, September 16—3p

Geoffrey Haydon, *piano*  
Wednesday, September 19—7:30p

Family Weekend Concert  
Friday, September 28—7:30p

Paul Hanson, *piano*  
Sunday, September 30—3:00p

David Esleck Trio  
Wednesday, October 3—7:30p

Balinese Wayang Kulit (Shadow Theater)  
Gusti Putu Sudarta, *Puppeteer*  
Sunday, October 7—3:00p  
*Cousins Studio Theater* (Modlin)

*Third Practice*  
Electroacoustic Music Festival  
Friday, October 19 through  
Saturday, October 20

Duo Piano Recital  
Doris Wylee-Becker, *piano*  
Richard Becker, *piano*  
Sunday, November 4—3:00p

University Choir and Schola Cantorum  
Sunday, November 11—3:00p

University Wind Ensemble  
Sunday, November 18—7:30p

UR Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Combo  
Monday, November 19—7:30p

Bruce Stevens, *organ*  
Monday, November 26—7:30p  
*Cannon Memorial Chapel*

Barry Salwen, *piano*  
Wednesday, November 28—7:30p

Cuba Documentary Premiere and UR Jazz  
Combo: "Cuba: Rhythm in Motion"  
Friday, November 30—7:30p

University Chamber Music Ensembles  
Monday, December 3—7:30p

University Orchestra  
Wednesday, December 5—7:30p

University Balinese Gamelan & Dance  
Thursday, December 6—7:30p

Annual Christmas Candlelight Concert  
Sunday, December 9: 5 & 8:00p  
*Cannon Memorial Chapel*



*Spring 2008*

Jeffrey Riehl, *tenor*  
Kenneth Merrill, *piano*  
Assisted by Jennifer Cable, *soprano*  
Monday, January 14—7:30p

Richard Becker, *piano*  
Sunday, February 3—3:00p

An Evening of Music by Béla Bartók  
Matt Albert, *violin*  
Matthew Duvall, *percussion*  
Jennifer Cable, *soprano*  
Paul Hanson, *piano*  
Joanne Kong, *piano*  
Ray Breakall, *percussion*  
Monday, February 4—7:30p

Jeremy McEntire, *flute*  
Sunday, February 24—3:00p

*eighth blackbird*  
"The Only Moving Thing"  
Wednesday, March 26—7:30p

Jazz and Brazilian Combo Concert  
Wednesday, April 2—7:30p

University Choir & Schola Cantorum  
Sunday, April 6—3:00p

University Balinese Gamelan and Dance  
Monday, April 7—7:30p

University Orchestra  
Wednesday, April 9—7:30p

UR Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Combo  
Monday, April 14—7:30p

University Wind Ensemble  
Wednesday, April 16—7:30p

University Chamber Music Ensembles  
Monday, April 21—7:30p