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Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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University of Richmond
Department of Music

Fall 2022-Spring 2023
Concert Series

Richard Becker, piano

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Camp Concert Hall
Booker Hall of Music



music.richmond.edu

PROGRAM

- Nocturne, op. 9, no. 1 Frédéric Chopin
(1810 – 1849)
- Noctuelle, from *Miroirs* Maurice Ravel
(1875 - 1937)
- Preludes, op. 28 Chopin
1. *Agitato* (C Major)
 2. *Lento* (A Minor)
 3. *Vivace* (G Major)
 4. *Largo* (E Minor)
 5. *Molto allegro* (D Major)
 6. *Lento assai* (B Minor)
- Etude, op. 25, no. 1 (“Aeolian Harp”)

INTERMISSION

- Sonata in C Major, op. 2, no. 3 Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 - 1827)
Allegro con brio
Adagio
Scherzo
Allegro assai
- Nine Inventions to the Muses** Richard Becker
(b. 1943)
1. Polyhymnia... Muse of sacred poetry
 2. Clio... Muse of history
 4. Calliope... Muse of epic poetry
 5. Terpsichore... Muse of dance
 6. Euterpe... Muse of flutes and music
 7. Erato... Muse of love poetry and lyric poetry
 8. Thalia... Muse of comedy and pastoral poetry
 9. Urania... Muse of astronomy

*Composed during residencies at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (summers of 2021 and 2022)

Nocturne, from *Seven Piano Fantasies* (1990)

POETRY READING

From *On Sunday Afternoons* (Finishing Line Press, May, 2022), for sale in the lobby.

Richard Becker grew up in Park Slope, Brooklyn where Prospect Park, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden exposed him to natural beauty and fine art. He studied piano and composition at the Eastman School of Music, University of Texas at Austin, and Boston University.

As a poet, Becker has published in journals such as *Columbia*, *America*, *The Baltimore Review*, *U City Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Slipstream*, and in two chapbooks, *Fates* (*The Literary Review*, 2008) and *On Sunday Afternoons* (Finishing Line Press, 2022). He has given readings in Paris at Cité Internationale des Arts and Shakespeare & Co., and in the US at Vermont Studio Center, Bread Loaf Writers Conference, Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts, at the University of Richmond, and most recently for the June, 2022, Annual Hawaii University International Conference on STEM/STEAM and Education, Waikiki.

As a pianist, he has performed on numerous college campuses, and at venues including New York's Alice Tully Hall, The Town Hall, 92nd Street Y, and Carnegie Hall, and in Washington, DC, at Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress, The National Gallery of Art, and at the French Embassy, as First Prize Laureate of the French Piano Institute. In Paris, Becker has performed at L'École Normale de Musique's Salle Cortot and Salle Michelet, a venue of the Cité Internationale des Arts, where he has been a frequent artist-in-residence. As a composer, he has been a MacDowell Colony Fellow, a Virginia Center for Creative Arts Fellow, and an American Academy of Arts and Letters nominee.

Becker's compositions have been performed at Tanglewood Music Center; L'École Normale de Musique, Paris; Brattleboro Music

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Festival; National Gallery of Art; Virginia Museum; University of South Florida New Music Festivals; and on college campuses throughout the country. His compositions have received Meet the Composer Grants, Contemporary Music Studio grants, and wide critical acclaim in the press.

His piano performance has been 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 lives in Richmond with his wife, Doris Wylee-Becker, with whom he plays two-piano concerts, their daughter, Ilana Lee, and Golden Retriever Muffin. He is Associate Professor of Music at the University of Richmond, where he heads Piano Study, teaching piano and a course called “Poetry and Music.”



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