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### Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND  
Department of Music  
2023 – 2024 Concert Series

# Richard Becker, piano

Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
7:30 PM  
Camp Concert Hall



[music.richmond.edu](http://music.richmond.edu)

## PROGRAM

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Three Intermezzi, op. 117  | Johannes Brahms      |
| I. <i>Andante moderato</i>   | (1833 – 1897)        |
| II. <i>Andante non troppo e con molta espressione</i>                            |                      |
| III. <i>Andante con moto</i>   |                      |
| <br>   |                      |
| Sonata in E Minor, op. 90  | Ludwig van Beethoven |
| I. <i>Mit Lebhaftigkeit und durchaus<br/>        mit Empfindung und Ausdruck</i> | (1770 – 1827)        |
| II. <i>Nicht zu geschwind und sehr singbar vorgetragen</i>                       |                      |
| <br>   |                      |
| Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, op. 60  | Frédéric Chopin      |
|  | (1810 – 1849)        |

## INTERMISSION

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| from Seven Piano Fantasies (1990) | Richard Becker |
| II. Variations                    | (b. 1943)      |
| VII. Elegy                        |                |
| <br>                              |                |
| Serenade (2004)                   |                |

*Please silence cell phones before the concert.  
Recording, Taping, Photographing are strictly prohibited.*



**Richard Becker** grew up in Park Slope, Brooklyn, where Prospect Park, The Brooklyn Museum, and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens 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, 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 Festival, National Gallery of Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, University of South Florida New Music

*continued...*

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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