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Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Presents in Concert

Richard Becker
pianist

Sunday, February 2, 2014
3:00 p.m.
Camp Concert Hall



PROGRAM

Three Whitman Fragments for Solo Piano (2014)

Richard Becker
(1943-)

"...a leaf of grass is no less
than the journey work of stars"
(Song of Myself, 31).

"The smallest sprout shows
there is really no death..."
(Song of Myself, 6).

"My faith is the greatest of
faiths and the least of faiths"
(Song of Myself, 43).

Piano Sonata No. 31 in A \flat Major, Op.110

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

- I. Moderato cantabile molto espressivo
- II. Scherzo: Allegro molto
- III. Adagio ma non troppo. Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo

Intermission

Etude in A \flat Major, Opus 25, No. 1

Frédéric François Chopin
(1810-1849)

Fantaisie in F Minor, Op.49

Chopin

Hungarian Rhapsody No.12 in C \sharp Minor, S.244

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)



Please silence cell phones, digital watches, and paging devices before the concert.

RICHARD BECKER, Coordinator of Piano Studies at the University of Richmond, is a pianist and composer whose playing has been acclaimed in Europe and America. Performing on many college campuses over the years and frequently touring the eastern United States, he has also performed at venues such as New York's Alice Tully Hall; National Gallery of Art, the American French Embassy; Library of Congress; and Hudson River, Virginia, and Spencer Museums. He has also played at the Salle Cortot, as Laureate of the French Piano Institute, and Salle Michelet in Paris, where six times he has been artist-in-residence at Cité Internationale des Arts.

Becker's music has been commissioned by grants from Meet the Composer, CRS Records, and he has been a MacDowell Colony Fellow and a nominee for an American Academy of Arts and Letters award. His performances and his own music compositions have been heard on NPR, Voice of America, WNYC, WETA, WGMS, and WCVE, and at the American Music Festival of the National Gallery of Art. They have also been featured during residencies at Marshall University, James Madison University, Eastern Mennonite University, the Longy School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, New England Conservatory, and Brattleboro Music Center's Summer Chamber Festival and Concert Series, where he coached alongside the late Blanche Moyses, and at CMS and MTNA conferences over the years.

Richard Becker's playing has been cited for its "powerful interpretations" by the *Washington Post*, for being "admirable in taste and technique" by *The New York Times*, and for being "brilliant with seamless passagework and elegant phrasing" by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Becker's playing is grounded in the tradition of Arthur Schnabel, acquired during his study with the late Leonard Shure while earning the M. Mus. degree at Boston University. His teaching owes much to the relaxation methods of Tobias Matthay, learned from Cecile Staub Genhart at the Eastman School of Music, where he earned the B. Mus. and Performer's Certificate. Becker taught at the University of Texas and Boston University prior to joining the faculty at the University of Richmond in 1975.

In recent years, Richard Becker's poetry has been published in *America*, *Columbia Magazine*, *Visions-International*, *Cold Mountain*, and *Poetica Magazine: Contemporary Jewish Writing*. His poetic sequence, "FATES," was a 2009 chapbook of *The Literary Review*. His music compositions have been recorded on CRS Records, with piano performances available on Albany Records.



THE 2013-2014 DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES
FREE—No Ticket Required— CAMP CONCERT HALL *unless noted otherwise

Spring 2014

Mon., February 3, 2014 — 7:30 p.m.

Neumann Lecture on Music: *Is Music Prophetic or Reflexive? Music, Activism and Social Change*

Tony Seeger, *speaker*

Fri., February 14 — 7:30 p.m.

Peter Tirrell D'Elia, *piano*

Sat., February 15 — 10 a.m.

Master Class with Peter Tirrell D'Elia

*Perkinson Recital Hall

Mon., February 17 — 7:30 p.m.

Bruce B. Stevens, *organ*

*Cannon Memorial Chapel

Mon., March 24 — 7:30 p.m.

Garth Newel Piano Quartet

Sun., March 30 — 7:30 p.m.

Richard Becker and Doris Wylee-Becker

Dual Piano Recital

Wed., April 2 — 7:30 p.m.

UR Jazz Ensemble

Mike Davison, director

Thurs., April 3 — 7:30 p.m.

UR Wind Ensemble

David Niethamer, director

Sun., April 6 — 3 p.m.

Handel's Messiah

UR Schola Cantorum, Women's Chorale,

and Second Presbyterian Church Choir;

Jeffrey Riehl, conductor

*Cannon Memorial Chapel

Wed., April 9 — 7:30 p.m.

UR Symphony Orchestra, with *eighth*

blackbird clarinetist Michael Maccaferri;

Alexander Kordzaia, conductor

Mon., April 14 — 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer Johnson Cano, *mezzo-soprano,*

and Christopher Cano, *piano*

Thurs., April 17 — 7:30 p.m.

UR Jazz and Contemporary Combos

Mike Davison, director

Sat., April 19 — 3 p.m.

Earth Day Global Sounds

Andrew McGraw, director

*North Court (outside location)

Mon., April 21 — 7:30 p.m.

UR Chamber Ensembles

