

4-24-2014

## Guest Artist: Brian Preston, piano

Brian Preston

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MTNA Guest Artist:  
**Brian Preston, piano**

Ford Hall  
Thursday, April 24th, 2014  
8:30 pm



**ITHACA COLLEGE**

School of Music

# Program

Sonata in E Minor, Op. 90  
Mit Lebhaftigkeit und durchaus mit  
Empfindung und Ausdruck  
Nicht zu geschwind und sehr singbar vorgetragen

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Toccata in C Major, Op. 7

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

Jeux d'eau

Maurice Ravel  
(1875-1937)

Chaconne in D Minor

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)  
trans. by Ferruccio Busoni  
(1866-1924)

# Intermission

Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58  
Allegro maestoso  
Scherzo: Molto vivace  
Largo  
Finale: Presto non tanto

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

## Brian Preston

Brian Preston has been a community leader in music education through his private piano studio for more than 40 years. He began teaching at age 14 having won first prize in the National Federation of Music Clubs' pre-college piano competition of Maryland. Soon after, Preston made his concerto debut with the Baltimore Symphony. Moving to the Rochester, New York to attend the Eastman School of Music, Brian Preston first made his mark on the teaching scene while still a student himself. The Rochester Philharmonic League's first prize in piano was awarded one of Preston's high school students who was then invited to perform the Schumann Concerto with the Philharmonic.

In 1981 Brian Preston became the first pianist since 1968 to be awarded the Artist Diploma from the Eastman School of Music where he received his Bachelor's and Master's of Music degrees under the tutelage of Cecile Genhart. While still a student, he performed both Brahms Concerti with the Eastman Philharmonia in Rochester's Eastman Theatre.

Brian Preston has performed solo concerts throughout the U.S. and Canada, in the Virgin Islands, and in many of Europe's leading music centers. In 1981 he made his New York City debut at Lincoln Center with glowing reviews. A most dedicated teacher, Preston's pre-college private students have won first prizes from international to local competitions. Mr. Preston has balanced his private teaching with collegiate piano instruction first at Allegheny College and later Nazareth College where he has been on faculty since 1991.

Brian Preston has worked with some of the 20th century's most outstanding piano pedagogues. As a youngster he studied with the Peabody Conservatory's famed director and music author Otto Ortmann, and his daughter Dorothea. In later high school years Preston worked with Peabody artist faculty Konrad Wolff and Walter Hautzig. For his collegiate work it was the eight years spent under the tutelage of legendary pedagogue Cecile Genhart that has molded and shaped his teaching style, philosophy and never ending search for beauty in music-making.

Along with his teaching and performing career, Brian Preston serves as the Artistic Director of the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition in Cape Vincent, New York. He is presently serving as New York State president of the National Federation of Music Clubs and has served as Chair for the Greater Rochester Music Teachers Association an affiliate of MTNA, of which Preston has been a member since 1984.

### **Reviews**

"There was a full measure of excitement in his playing, his touch and pacing were ideal."

**New York Times**

"Finish and thoughtfulness made his recital an especially satisfying one."

**New York Times**

"Extremely delicately developed feeling for sound nuances. And what tone!"

**Berlin Tagespiegel**

"A pianist possessing real charm, with musical instincts very intelligently put to work."

**Geneva Tribune**

## **Music Teachers National Association**

Music Teachers National Association In 1876, Theodore Presser and 62 of his colleagues founded the Music Teachers National Association with the purpose of advancing the value of music study and music-making to society while supporting the careers and professionalism of teachers of music. Today, MTNA has cemented its role as an organization essential not only to the professional and individual well-being of music-teaching professionals, but also a vital partner in their growth and development. It provides both a collective voice for teachers worldwide and a powerful alliance with a highly prestigious and influential group. With nearly 22,000 members in 50 states—and more than 500 local affiliates—the MTNA is the preeminent source for music teacher support, where members embody like-minded values and commitment to their students, colleagues and society as a whole, while reaping the rewards of collaboration, continuity and connection throughout the lifetime of their careers. ("About MTNA" from mtna.org)

### **Ithaca College Collegiate Chapter of MTNA**

The Ithaca College Collegiate Chapter of MTNA connects IC students with music professionals around the state and nationwide. Under the leadership of President Michael Clark, Vice President Kamila Swerdloff, Treasurer Samantha Berry, Secretary Jennifer Pham, and faculty adviser Dr. Jennifer Hayghe, the IC chapter has been active on campus and in the Ithaca community. Each year, IC MTNA organizes guest artist recitals and master classes, mock juries, on-campus member recitals, and community concerts in local retirement homes. The chapter also hosts an instrument petting zoo annually during the Ithaca Apple Harvest Festival as well as several petting zoos for special needs students throughout the year. Members of the chapter frequently represent Ithaca College at state and national conferences of MTNA. Last fall, IC MTNA was featured at the New York State Music Teachers Association Conference at the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY, with their presentation "From Applicants to Alumni: What Your Students Need to Know to Be Successful Collegiate Pianists."