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Guest Artist Recital: Emanuel Ax, piano

Emanuel Ax

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“It is my plan to build a school of music second to none.”

—William Grant Egbert (1867–1928) Founder, Ithaca Conservatory of Music

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA
ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERTS 2002-3

Emanuel Ax, piano

Variations in F on an Original Theme for Piano, Op. 34  
Ludwig Van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Partita No. 1 in B-flat, BWV 825  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Prelude  
Allemande  
Corrente  
Sarabande  
Minuet I and II  
Gigue

Ludwig Van Beethoven

INTERMISSION

Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat Major, Op. 61  
Frederic Chopin  
(1810-1849)

Three Mazurkas  
Frederic Chopin

Op. 59, no. 1  
Op. 30, no. 2  
Op. 56, no. 3

Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise, Op. 22  
Frederic Chopin

Ford Hall  
Tuesday, October 22, 2002  
8:15 p.m.

Exclusive Management:  
ICM Artists, Ltd., 40 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019  
Lee Lamont, Chairman  
David V. Foster, President and CEO

Mr. Ax records exclusively for Sony Classical  
Steinway Piano
EMANUEL AX
Pianist

Emanuel Ax is renowned not only for his poetic temperament and unsurpassed virtuosity, but also for the exceptional breadth of his performing activity. Each season his distinguished career includes appearances with major symphony orchestras worldwide, recitals in the most celebrated concert halls, a variety of chamber music collaborations, the commissioning and performance of new music, and additions to his acclaimed discography on Sony Classical.

Mr. Ax captured public attention in 1974 when, at age 25, he won the First Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975 he won the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists and, four years later, took the coveted Avery Fisher Prize. He has been an exclusive Sony Classical recording artist since 1987, making his debut on that label with a collection of Chopin scherzi and mazurkas. His releases over the past few years include a two-piano program (with Yefim Bronfman) of works by Rachmaninoff; period-instrument performances of Chopin’s complete works for piano and orchestra (on two discs), and the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2 with Bernard Haitink and the Boston Symphony. Other notable recordings are a Grammy-award winning album of Haydn piano sonatas, the two Liszt concertos paired with the Schoenberg concerto, three solo Brahms albums, an album of Piazzolla tangos with Pablo Ziegler (of Quintet for New Tango).

In recent years Mr. Ax has turned his attention toward the music of 20th-century composers, performing works by such diverse figures as Sir Michael Tippett, Hans Werner Henze, Paul Hindemith, Ezra Laderman, Peter Lieberson, Joseph Schwantner, William Bolcom, André Previn, and Aaron Copland. He gave the world premiere of John Adams’ Century Rolls with the Cleveland Orchestra in 1997 and also recorded the work for Nonesuch; he also gave the European premiere in 1998, and the New York premiere in 2000. Another concerto dedicated to him is Christopher Rouse’s Seeing for piano and orchestra that premiered in 1999. In 2000 he joined the Boston Symphony for the first performances of Bright Sheng’s Red Silk Dance, and in 2003 he will join Yo-Yo Ma, David Zinman and the New York Philharmonic for the premiere another of Mr. Sheng’s compositions—Concerto for Piano Cello, Pipa and Chinese Wind Instruments. Last season, Mr. Ax premiered Krzysztof Penderecki’s new piano concerto, Resurrection, with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and at the request of Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony he will also premiere a concerto written for him by Melinda Wagner in May 2003.
During the summer of 2002, Mr. Ax made festival appearances at Tanglewood, Ravinia, the Hollywood Bowl, Wolf Trap and the BBC Proms, and he also gave a series of concerts in Australia and Japan. In the 2002-3 season he embarks on tours with The King's Singers and with clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, and appears with numerous orchestras in North America and Europe including the Cleveland Orchestra, Boston, Chicago and Pittsburgh Symphonies, and the Philharmonia Orchestra (London). His recital schedule includes appearances in Amsterdam, Berlin, Ithaca, London, Lucerne, New York (Carnegie Hall), and Prague.

Devoted to chamber music literature, Mr. Ax regularly works with such artists as Young Uck Kim, Cho-Liang Lin, Yo-Yo Ma, Peter Serkin, and Jaime Laredo, and he was a frequent collaborator with the late Isaac Stern. He has made a series of acclaimed recordings with Mr. Ma, and as a duo they have won three Grammy awards for the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano. The pair has also teamed with Richard Stoltzman for a Grammy award-winning album of clarinet trios and with Pamela Frank, Rebecca Young and Edgar Meyer for the Schubert "Trout" quintet. The Ax-Stern-Laredo-Ma Quartet toured and recorded extensively in recent seasons, including piano quartets of Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak, Fauré, Mozart and Schumann for Sony Classical.

Born in Lvov, Poland, Emanuel Ax moved to Winnipeg, Canada, with his family when he was a young boy. His studies at The Juilliard School were greatly supported by the sponsorship of the Epstein Scholarship Program of the Boys Clubs of America, and he subsequently won the Young Concert Artists Award. His piano teacher was Mieczylaw Munz. Additionally, he attended Columbia University, where he majored in French. Mr. Ax resides in New York City with his wife, pianist Yoko Nozaki, and their children, Joseph and Sarah.

Ithaca College Concerts 2002-3
Emanuel Ax—October 22
Nathan Gunn—February 5
Midori—March 21