10-26-1997

Guest Artist Recital: Yefim Bronfman, piano

Yefim Bronfman

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THE RACHEL S. THALER CONCERT PIANIST SERIES
WITH GUEST ARTIST

Yefim Bronfman

Sunday, October 26, 1997
8:15 p.m.
Ford Hall Auditorium
Ithaca College
YEFIM BRONFMAN is widely regarded as one of the most talented virtuoso pianists performing today. His commanding technique and exceptional lyrical gifts have won him consistent critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences worldwide.

Born in Tashkent in the former Soviet Union in 1958, Bronfman emigrated to Israel with his family in 1973. There he studied with pianist Arie Vardi, head of the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University. He also studied in the United States at the Juilliard School, Marlboro, and the Curtis Institute, and with Rudolf Firkusny, Leon Fleisher, and Rudolf Serkin.

Bronfman's recent seasons have included numerous solo recitals in the leading halls of North America, Europe, and the Far East, as well as concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra, among many other ensembles. A devoted chamber music performer, he has collaborated with such groups as the Emerson, Cleveland, Guarneri, and Juilliard quartets.

In 1991 Bronfman was awarded the Avery Fisher Prize, one of the highest honors given to American instrumentalists. He records exclusively with Sony Classical. One of his latest releases, of three Bartok piano concerti with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, won a Grammy award in 1997.
Yefim Bronfman
PIANIST

Sonata no. 3 in F minor, op. 5
Allegro maestoso
Andante espressivo
Scherzo: Allegro energico; Trio
Intermezzo (Ruckblick): Andante molto
Finale: Allegro moderato ma rubato

Johannes Brahms
(1833–97)

INTERMISSION

Sonata no. 2
Allegro e moderato
Sostenuto cantabile
Presto possible

Rodion Shchedrin
(b. 1932)

Pictures at an Exhibition
Promenade - Gnomus - Promenade -
The Old Castle - Promenade -
Tuileries - Bydlo - Promenade -
Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks -
Rich & Poor: Goldenberg and Schmuyle -
Promenade - The Market Place at Limoges -
Catacombs - The Hut on Fowl’s Legs -
The Great Gate of Kiev

Modest Mussorgsky
(1839–81)

Steinway piano
Yefim Bronfman records exclusively for Sony Classical.
ICM Artists, Ltd., managers
THE RACHEL S. THALER CONCERT PIANIST SERIES was established at Ithaca College in 1991 in honor of Rachel Thaler.

A native Ithacan and talented pianist, Rachel Thaler attended the Ithaca public schools and graduated from Ithaca High School. She was awarded a scholarship to attend the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, but her father’s unexpected death shortly before classes began required her to change her plan and step in to manage the family’s furniture business instead.

Although she was never able to formally pursue her studies at the conservatory, Mrs. Thaler saw to it that her two sons and six grandchildren all had the opportunity to play musical instruments. Her love of music has remained strong, as has her attachment to Ithaca College. Both she and her late husband, Louis K. Thaler, were devoted supporters of the Friends of Ithaca College and members of the Tower Club for many years.

In addition to her musical skill, Rachel Thaler is a talented artist, working with needle painting, an ancient Chinese technique that uses pieces of colored thread rather than paint to create the image. Her work has been exhibited at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and in Rochester and Syracuse, and her technique has been featured in a video produced by the New York State Council on the Arts.

In endowing the concert series, Manley H. Thaler said, “My mother has always had an affinity for music. We wanted to do something in her honor during her lifetime. Because of her interest in Ithaca College and its outstanding music program, it was clear that the endowment fund should be created here.”