Concert: Stewart Goodyear, piano. Rachel S. Thaler Concert Series

Stewart Goodyear

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THE RACHEL S. THALER CONCERT PIANIST SERIES

STEWART GOODYEAR PIANO

ITHACA

Friday, September 12, 2008
8:15 p.m.
Ford Hall
James J. Whalen Center for Music
Ithaca College
Stewart Goodyear

Known for imagination, a graceful, elegant style, and exquisite technique, Stewart Goodyear is an accomplished young artist whose career spans many genres—concerto soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, and composer.

Goodyear has performed with many of the major orchestras of the world—including five separate appearances to date with the Philadelphia Orchestra, in addition to performances with the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the Montreal Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Detroit Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, and the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, among others.

He has a long-standing relationship with the orchestras of Toronto and New Jersey, both of which have nurtured his career from an early age; and his continued work with the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa covers his many sides with regular appearances in recitals and chamber music concerts there, in addition to his orchestral concerts. Goodyear also continues his vibrant partnership with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and its music director, Paavo Järvi, with whom he appears frequently.

Conductors with whom Goodyear has collaborated are Christoph Eschenbach, Daniel Barenboim, Michael Tilson Thomas, Sir Andrew Davis, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Andrew Litton, Yakov Kreizberg, Emmanuel Krivine, Osmo Vänskä, Charles Dutoit, Pinchas Zukerman, Hugh Wolff, JoAnn Falletta, Gerard Schwarz, Peter Oundjian, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, and Roberto Minczuk.

He has appeared in recitals in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, Bad Kissingen, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.; and he performed with the Festivals of Carora, Santa Fe, and Ravinia.

In addition to his talents as a pianist, Goodyear is a composer and frequently performs his own works, including his solo piano work, Variations on “Eleanor Rigby,” which premiered at Lincoln Center in New York in August 2000, and his piano sonata, both of which have received continual acclaim by critics and audiences alike. He has written by commission for the Toronto Youth Symphony for its 25th anniversary, as well as for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. His first large-scale work for orchestra Caribbiana was commissioned by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and received premiere performances in March 2005 in concerts conducted by Vassily Sinaisky. A new work for chorus was premiered by the Nathaniel Dette chorale of Canada in Toronto.

Goodyear has been noted for his innovation and is one of the rare classical musicians to always improvise his cadenzas when performing concertos from the classical period. He has been repeatedly praised for both the inspiring individuality and appreciation of the composer’s own style that he clearly conveys in every performance.

A native of Toronto, Goodyear holds a master’s degree from the Juilliard School of Music, studying with Oxana Yablonskaya. He previously studied at the Curtis Institute of Music with Leon Fleisher, Gary Graffman, and Claude Frank.
Stewart Goodyear
PIANIST.

Sonata in A Major (Alla Turca), K. 331 (300i)
           WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
           (1756–91)
Andante grazioso e variazioni
Menuetto – Trio
Alla Turca: Allegretto

Gaspard de la nuit
           MAURICE RAVEL
           (1875–1937)
Ondine: Lent
Le Gibet: Très lent
Scarbo: Modéré

Excursions, op. 20
           SAMUEL CARRBER
           (1910–81)
Un poco allegro
In slow blues tempo
Allegretto
Allegro molto

Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, op. 36
           SERGEI RACHMANINOV
           (1873–1943)
Allegro agitato
Lento
Allegro molto
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 remained strong, as did her
attachment to Ithaca College. Both she and her 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 was a talented
artist. She worked 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 pro-
duced by the New York State Council on the Arts. Mrs. Thaler
died on August 18, 2004, at the age of 97.

In endowing the concert series in 1991, 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.”

The legacy of the Thalers’ love of music lives on today through
the Rachel S. Thaler Concert Pianist Series and the Louis K.
Thaler Concert Violinist Series, which was established in 2002.
The Thaler/Howell Foundation, through the efforts of Manley
H. Thaler, endowed both series to recognize and honor Rachel
and Louis Thaler and to ensure that outstanding pianists and
violinists would always perform for the Ithaca College commu-
nity and the residents of the surrounding area.