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MICHAEL STEPHEN BROWN PIANO

NOVEMBER 8, 2023



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FROM THE BOARD

AFCM welcomes you to tonight's concert by the renowned pianist and composer, Michael Stephen Brown, who arrives this evening to delight us after recent appearances at Wolf Trap: Chamber Music at the Barns. His program is a wonderful selection, including works by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Debussy, Ravel, von Schaubert, Brown himself, as well as transcriptions for piano of Haydn and Mendelssohn works. To quote Michael Brown on his youth: "At four, I realized I wanted to be the reincarnation of Mozart so I embarked upon a life of exploration...but mostly pure and utter joy." The themes of tonight's program - admiration, reflection and love - express this continuing vision. AFCM is so pleased you are here tonight to celebrate with Michael Stephen Brown.

During intermission, be sure to stop by our board table in the lobby for information and merchandise, and, if you haven't already, sign up for email notifications. Please reach out and engage board members (we're wearing badges) with questions, comments, and observations. If you'd like to sponsor a concert or commission a composition, share your interest with Cathy Anderson in our box office or send her an email at cathyanderson@arizonachambermusic.org

Please note that Tucson Convention Center still enforces a clear bag policy. Bags can be no larger than 14"x 9" and clutches no larger than 8"x5". Cathy can give you a bag if you need one.

As always, heartfelt thanks for your enthusiastic and generous support!

LARRY HERRON

Secretary, AFCM

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MICHAEL STEPHEN BROWN

NOVEMBER 8, 2023 | 7:30 PM



MICHAEL STEPHEN BROWN

Michael Stephen Brown has been hailed by The New York Times as “one of the leading figures in the current renaissance of performer-composers.” His artistry is shaped by his creative voice as a pianist and composer, praised for his “fearless performances” (The New York Times) and “exceptionally beautiful” compositions (The Washington Post).

Winner of the 2018 Emerging Artist Award from Lincoln Center and a 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Brown has recently performed as soloist with the Seattle Symphony, the National Philharmonic, and the Grand Rapids, North Carolina, Wichita, New Haven, and Albany Symphonies; and given recitals at Carnegie Hall, the Mostly Mozart Festival, and Lincoln Center. Brown is an artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, performing frequently at Alice Tully Hall and on tour. In 2022, he opens the Society’s season with Bach and Mendelssohn concertos, and makes European debuts as soloist with the NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra, and performs recitals at the Beethoven-Haus Bonn and the Chopin Museum in Majorca. He was selected by András Schiff to perform on an international tour making solo debuts in Berlin, Milan, Florence, Zurich’s Tonhalle and New York’s 92nd Street Y. He regularly performs recitals with his longtime duo partner, cellist Nicholas Canellakis, and has appeared at numerous festivals including Tanglewood, Marlboro, Music@Menlo, Gilmore, Ravinia, Saratoga, Bridgehampton, Caramoor, Music in the Vineyards, Bard, Sedona, Moab, and Tippet Rise.

As a composer, he recently toured his own Concerto for Piano and Strings (2020) around the US and Poland with several orchestras. He was the Composer and Artist-in-Residence at the New Haven Symphony for the 2017-19 seasons and a 2018 Copland House Residency Award recipient. He has received commissions from the Gilmore Piano Festival, the NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra; the New Haven and Maryland Symphony Orchestras; Concert Artists Guild, Shriver Hall; Osmo Vänskä and Erin Keefe; pianists Jerome Lowenthal, Ursula Oppens, Orion Weiss, Adam Golka, and Roman Rabinovich; and a consortium of gardens.

A prolific recording artist, his latest album Noctuelles, featuring Ravel’s Miroirs and newly discovered movements by Medtner, was called “a glowing presentation” by BBC Music Magazine. He can be heard as soloist with the Seattle Symphony and Ludovic Morlot in the music of Messiaen, and as soloist with the Brandenburg State Symphony in music by Samuel Adler. Other albums include Beethoven’s Eroica Variations; all-George Perle; and collaborative albums each with pianist Jerome Lowenthal, cellist Nicholas Canellakis, and violinist Elena Urioste. He is now embarking on a multi-year project to record the complete piano music by Felix Mendelssohn including world premiere recordings of music by one of Mendelssohn’s muses, Delphine von Schauroth.

Brown was First Prize winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition, a winner of the Bowers Residency from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (formerly CMS Two), and a recipient of the Juilliard Petschek Award, and he currently is a Steinway Artist. He earned dual bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano and composition from The Juilliard School, where he studied with pianists Jerome Lowenthal and Robert McDonald and composers Samuel Adler and Robert Beaser. Additional mentors have included András Schiff and Richard Goode as well as his early teachers, Herbert Rothgarber and Adam Kent.

PROGRAM

PROGRAM

*Part One, **Admiration***

JOSEPH HAYDN (1732-1809)

Fantasia in C major, Hob. XVII:4, Capriccio(1789)

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862-1918)

Hommage à Haydn (1909)

MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)

Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn (1909)

MICHAEL BROWN (b. 1987)

Etude-Fantasy on the name of Haydn (2020)

*Part Two, **Reflection***

MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)

Miroirs (1904–1905)

- I. Noctuelles (Night Moths)
- II. Oiseaux tristes (Sad Birds)
- III. Une barque sur l'océan (A Boat on the Ocean)
- IV. Alborada del gracioso (The Comedian's Aubade)
- V. La vallée des cloches (The Valley of Bells)

INTERMISSION

*Part Three, **Love***

DELPHINE VON SCHAUROTH (1813-1887)

Three Songs Without Words, Op. 18, No. 1 in E Major, No. 5 in A Minor, No. 6 in F Major

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

Fantasy in F-sharp Minor, Op. 28

Con moto agitato—Andante
Allegro con moto
Presto

MICHAEL BROWN (b. 1987)

Breakup Etude for Right Hand (2020)

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

Two transcriptions from A Midsummer Night's Dream

Mendelssohn-Rachmaninoff: Scherzo
Mendelssohn-Liszt-Horowitz-Brown: Wedding March

This evening's concert is sponsored by the generous contribution of Paul St. John & Leslie Tolbert

PROGRAM NOTES

The works on the program share common inspirations of folklore, nature, and love.

PART ONE explores the musical voice of Franz Joseph Haydn, opening with his humorous Fantasia in C Major “Capriccio.” The work is based on the Austrian folk song, “The farmer’s wife has lost her cat.” To commemorate the centenary of Haydn’s death in 1909, Maurice Ravel and Claude Debussy were commissioned to write short homages based on musically spelling out H-A-Y-D-N. Alongside their tributes, I include my recent Etude-Fantasy on the name of Haydn featuring the same pitches used by Debussy and Ravel to close out a set honoring Haydn.

PART TWO features one of Ravel’s great piano masterpieces, Miroirs. Ravel claimed that his Miroirs was inspired by this line from Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar, ...the eye sees not itself, but by reflection, by some other things. With their evocative titles and pianistic innovations, these pieces remain among the most pictorially vivid in the repertoire. The five pieces that comprise Miroirs are variously dedicated to a poet, a pianist, a painter, a music critic, and a composer, all members of a circle of Parisian artists known as “Les Apaches.”

PART THREE explores the world of love with an emphasis on Felix Mendelssohn. He was enamored with a pianist-composer named Delphine Von Schauroth, a musical figure of the past whose music is virtually unheard nowadays. The two had a mutual affection and she wrote Songs Without Words for him and he dedicated various works to her in a musical love exchange. The two wound up marrying other people. On a similar subject, my Breakup Etude for Right Hand Alone pours out my own aching soul in the form of a masochistically difficult piece written for my right hand alone when my left hand was stuck in a splint. The recital concludes with two transcriptions from A Midsummer Night’s Dream by Felix Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff’s dazzling transcription of the Scherzo, and my own spin on Liszt and (Horowitz’s) Wedding March.

Notes by Michael Stephen Brown



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Jerusalem Quartet Wednesday, October 11, 2023 7:30 p.m.	Accordo Sunday, September 24, 2023 3:00 p.m.	George Tsontakis <i>Portraits of El Greco, Book II</i> Accordo Sunday, September 24, 2023 3:00 p.m. Arizona Premiere
Michael Stephen Brown, piano Wednesday, November 8, 2023 7:30 p.m.	Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival	Leilehua Lanzilotti <i>abupua'a</i> Argus Quartet January 17, 2024 Arizona Premiere
Isidore String Quartet Wednesday, December 6, 2023 7:30 p.m.	Winter Festival 2024 March 3–10, 2024 Peter Rejto, <i>Artistic Director</i>	Pierre Jalbert <i>Quintet for Clarinet and Strings</i> Dover Quartet March 3, 2024 World Premiere
Argus Quartet Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:30 p.m.	Dover Quartet Joel Link, <i>violin</i> Bryan Lee, <i>violin</i> Julianne Lee, <i>viola</i> Camden Shaw, <i>cello</i>	
Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Wednesday, January 31, 2024 7:30 p.m.	Edward Arron, <i>cello</i> Jennifer Frautschi, <i>violin</i> Romie de Guise-Langlois, <i>clarinet</i>	
Juilliard String Quartet Wednesday, February 7, 2024 7:30 p.m.	Bernadette Harvey, <i>piano</i> Jeewon Park, <i>piano</i> Masumi Per Rostad, <i>viola</i> Randall Scarlata, <i>baritone</i> Axel Strauss, <i>violin</i>	
Fauré Quartett Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:30 p.m.		
PIANO & FRIENDS		<i>Tickets online or at the box office.</i>
Alexander Malofeev, piano Sunday, October 22, 2023 3:00 p.m.		<i>For program and artist information, please visit arizonachambermusic.org.</i>
Nikki Chooi, violin Timothy Chooi, violin Sunday, January 7, 2024 3:00 p.m.		<i>If you are interested in sponsoring a concert or a musician, please contact Cathy Anderson in the box office or at arizonachambermusic.org.</i>
Steven Banks, saxophone Xak Bjerken, piano Sunday, February 18, 2024 3:00 p.m.		<i>If you are interested in sponsoring a commissioned work, please contact Cathy Anderson at office@arizonachambermusic.org</i>



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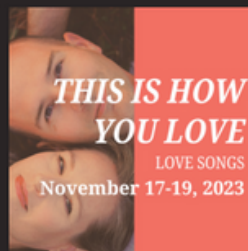


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William Shakespeare's
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Boyer: *Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue*, with pianist Jeffrey Biegel
Rosauro: Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra, with Dorothy Vanek
Youth Concerto winner, Campbell Stewart (marimba)
Gershwin: *Porgy and Bess* "A Symphonic Picture"
arranged by Robert Russell Bennett

November 11 & 12 **Lalo:** *Le roi d'Ys* Overture
Various: Arias and duets from operas, with Renata Vari,
Diana Peralta and Alonso Sicairos
Strauss: *Serenade*, Op. 7
Tchaikovsky: *Romeo and Juliet* Overture

February 10 & 11 **Fernandez:** *Batuque* from *Reisado do Pastoreio*
Coleridge-Taylor: Violin Concerto, Op. 80, with violinist Carissa Powe
Walker: *Lyric for Strings*
Stravinsky: Violin Concerto in D Major (movement 1), with
Dorothy Vanek Youth Concerto winner, Rachel Gardner (violin)
Still: *Symphony No. 1 (Afro-American Symphony)*

March 16 & 17 **Asia:** *Gateways*
Dvořák: Cello Concerto Op. 104, with cellist Zuill Bailey
Dvořák: *Symphony No. 7* Op. 70

April 27 & 28 **Guest conductor Giovanni Pompeo**
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*AFCM dedicates our 2023-2024 Season to Jean-Paul Bierny,
who brilliantly led this organization for 35 years.*

Tucson lost a remarkable advocate for chamber music with the passing of Jean-Paul Bierny on October 3. His journey into the world of chamber music began on a Chicago-bound plane when cellist Peter Rejto proposed the idea of a winter chamber music festival. Jean-Paul's unwavering determination and passion for music brought this idea to life, leading to the creation of the Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival, now celebrating its 30th season. Throughout his life, Jean-Paul was a driving force behind the Arizona Friends of Chamber Music, serving as its board president for 35 years. He earned recognition for his dedication, receiving the prestigious Acclaim Award from Chamber Music America in 2016.

Jean-Paul Bierny, originally from Belgium, pursued a career in medicine but developed a deep appreciation for chamber music during his time in Europe. After relocating to Tucson, he immersed himself in the local chamber music scene, eventually becoming the president of the Arizona Friends of Chamber Music in 1977. Under his leadership, the organization introduced the Piano and Friends series, the Winter Chamber Music Festival, and a commissioning program that resulted in nearly 80 new works by renowned composers. His passion for music extended beyond the stage, as he hosted post-concert dinners at his home with musicians and audiences alike.

Though Jean-Paul Bierny is no longer with us, his legacy will continue to resonate through the Arizona Friends of Chamber Music. AFCM is dedicating this season to honor his memory, and his impact on the world of chamber music will forever be cherished by musicians and music lovers alike.