

UC SANTA BARBARA
Department of Music

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / January 3, 2019

UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS PIANIST PAUL BERKOWITZ

UCSB professor to perform works by J.S. Bach, Bartók, and Chopin

Santa Barbara, CA (January 3, 2019)—The UC Santa Barbara Department of Music will present Professor of Piano Paul Berkowitz in recital on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 8 pm in Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall on the UCSB campus. Mr. Berkowitz—best known for his performances and recordings of Franz Schubert and the other Viennese masters Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms—will take something of a departure into the works of J.S. Bach, Bartók, and Chopin.

"I played the works of all these composers in my younger years: Bach and Chopin are staples of every young pianist's repertoire, and I had also performed most of the solo works of Bartók other than the later volumes of *Mikrokosmos*," noted Mr. Berkowitz. "But I realized that I had only performed one work of Bach here in the whole time since I came to UCSB in 1993, Bartók not at all, and even Chopin not for over 15 years. After revisiting and re-studying the late Schubert sonatas last year, I relished learning new (for me) works I had never played, and exploring these composers' very different worlds. The only work on the program that I have performed before now is the Chopin Barcarolle, and that not since 1986, when I played it at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London and for the BBC. The other works will all be a 'first'."

The first half of the recital will pair Bach's popular and effervescent Italian Concerto with one of his most profound and expansive works, the Partita in D Major. Excerpts from Béla Bartók's infrequently heard and highly inventive *Mikrokosmos*, Vol. VI (1939), including the lively *Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm*, will begin the second half. A short group of later works by Chopin will round out the program—the ravishingly beautiful Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 55, No. 2; the lilting Waltz, Op. 42; and the Barcarolle, Op. 60.

EVENT LISTING

UCSB Faculty Artist Recital: Paul Berkowitz, piano
Friday, February 1, 2019 | 8 pm
Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, UC Santa Barbara

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach

Italian Concerto (Clavierübung Part II), BWV 971
Partita No. 4 in D Major (Clavierübung Part I), BWV 828

Béla Bartók

excerpts from *Mikrokosmos*, Vol. VI (1939)
Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm

Frédéric Chopin

Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 55, No. 2
Waltz in A-flat Major, Op. 42
Barcarolle, Op. 60

TICKETS

General admission (\$15), non-UCSB students with ID (\$5), UCSB students with ID (FREE), children ages 9-12 (FREE). Tickets are available at music.ucsb.edu/news/purchase-tickets or by calling (805) 893-2064.

MORE INFORMATION

Complete artist biography and program information are available at music.ucsb.edu/news/event/1778.

ABOUT PAUL BERKOWITZ

Paul Berkowitz has recorded the complete Piano Sonatas of Schubert for Meridian Records to worldwide acclaim. He was described by the London *Sunday Times* as being "in the royal class of Schubert interpreters" and his CD recordings of the Last Three Schubert Piano Sonatas were included among the same newspaper's *Records of the Year*. His recording of Schumann's *Kreisleriana* was selected by BBC *Radio Record Review* as the best of all available recordings. He has also released a series of three CD recordings of Brahms Piano Music. *BBC Music Magazine* reviewed Vol. II commenting, "...praise to Meridian, which has in the Canadian pianist Paul Berkowitz an artist who isn't shy of taking on the kind of repertoire traditionally the preserve of more internationally high-profile artists. Rightly so, for he has a voice, a musicality, a bigness of pianism distinctively his own...his integrity is commanding, his stylistic authority convincing and his refusal merely to play the notes impressive."

Mr. Berkowitz recently recorded the Schubert Impromptus, *Moments Musicaux*, and other repertoire as the final two volumes of his 9-CD cycle of major works for piano by Schubert for Meridian, which he began in 1984. All earlier volumes have been re-issued along with the two new recordings as *Schubert Piano Works*, in nine volumes.

Mr. Berkowitz, a native of Montreal, Canada, is a graduate of McGill University and of the Curtis Institute, where he studied with Rudolf Serkin. He lived in Britain for 20 years appearing frequently at the Queen Elizabeth and Wigmore Halls and on the BBC, as a soloist with major orchestras in Britain and Canada and at music festivals in Belgium, Denmark, England, Scotland, France, Italy, and Spain. Mr. Berkowitz left the Guildhall School of Music in London, where he had been a professor since 1975, to join the music faculty at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1993, where he is Professor of Piano and served as Chair of the Department of Music (2007-12). He has been invited to present master classes at major conservatories, universities, and festivals, and his students have won prizes in numerous competitions, including the BBC Young Musician of the Year (Thomas Adès), the International Piano Competition Palma d'Oro in Italy, the Bradshaw and Buono International Competition in New York, and the Los Angeles Liszt Competition, and have gone on to have concert and academic careers of their own in Europe, North America, and Asia.

ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a multi-faceted department with a fully established research and professional graduate program with degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, musicology, music theory, and performance, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music has produced many hundreds of graduates who have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Alumni have gone on to teach on faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, or in outstanding secondary school positions. Many graduates of the program have published extensively and become widely renowned, prize-winning scholars, while others are award-winning and frequently performed composers writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 150 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department's rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website at music.ucsb.edu.

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