

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Department of Music

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / October 1, 2019

**PIANIST PAUL BERKOWITZ PRESENTS WORKS BY SCHUBERT AND BRAHMS**

*Paul Berkowitz returns to the repertoire for which he is best known and acclaimed, Schubert and Brahms, in works he has not performed in Santa Barbara for over 20 years*

Santa Barbara, CA (October 1, 2019)—The UC Santa Barbara Department of Music will present pianist and Professor Paul Berkowitz in recital on Friday, October 25, 2019 at 7:30 pm in Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall on the UC Santa Barbara campus. In this recital, Mr. Berkowitz will return to the repertoire for which he is best known and acclaimed, Schubert and Brahms, in works he has not performed in Santa Barbara for over 20 years, Brahms' Klavierstücke, Op. 119 and Schubert's Sonata in A minor, D845 (Op. 42). These milestone works of Schubert and Brahms will be accompanied by J.S. Bach's Partita No. 5 in G Major, as well as an assortment of works by Francis Poulenc.

The first half of the program will end with Brahms' last set of four piano pieces, the Klavierstücke Op. 119, that opens with one of the most elusive, sorrowful and profound of his Intermezzi, and follows with some of Brahms' best-known and beloved pieces including the tender and at times waltz-like Intermezzo No. 2 in E minor, the "*Gracioso e giocoso*" (graceful and playful) No. 3, and concludes with the grand and powerful Rhapsodie in E-flat Major. The second half of the program consists of Schubert's Sonata in A minor D845 (Op. 42), the first of Schubert's completed piano sonatas that was conceived on a grand scale to match Beethoven's, and the first that he published. It opens with a first movement that is an evolving and intense dramatic narrative, proceeds to a second movement Andante in string-quartet style and texture that is the only example of a variation movement within his piano sonatas; then to an energetic Scherzo, symphonic in scale, that constantly bounds forward, surrounding a gentle landler-like Trio; and ends in an unusual and *agitato* will-of-the-wisp Finale with dramatic outbursts that culminate in a whirlwind coda.

Mr. Berkowitz opens his program with the effervescent Partita No. 5 in G Major by Bach, following on from the more contemplative 4th Partita which he played in his recital last February. He then proceeds to four short piano pieces by 20th-century French composer Francis Poulenc that are rarely played, and in some cases are nearly unknown, which are especially beautiful in their almost vocal-like melodies and poignant, often lush, harmonies: a true find and hidden jewel. He will start with the aptly named *Mélancolie* of 1940, continue with the charming and very French Intermezzo No. 3 that was a favorite of Poulenc's, a sly and witty Presto in B-flat Major dedicated to Horowitz, and conclude with Poulenc's final work for piano from 1959, the 15th and last Improvisation written as an Hommage to Edith Piaf.

**PROGRAM**

**J.S. BACH**

Partita No. 5 in G Major (Clavierübung Part I), BWV 829 (1731)

**FRANCIS POULENC**

*Mélancolie*, FP 105 (1940)

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## **“PAUL BERKOWITZ” 2-2-2**

Intermezzo No. 3 in A-flat Major, FP 118 (1943)

Presto in B-flat Major, FP 70 (1934)

Improvisation No. 15 “Hommage à Édith Piaf”, FP 176 (1959)

## **JOHANNES BRAHMS**

Klavierstücke, Op. 119 (1892)

1. Intermezzo in B minor: Adagio
2. Intermezzo in E minor: Andantino un poco agitato – Andantino grazioso
3. Intermezzo in C Major: Grazioso e giocoso
4. Rhapsodie in E-flat Major: Allegro risoluto

## **FRANZ SCHUBERT**

Sonata in A minor, D845 (Op. 42) (1825)

## **ADMISSION**

Tickets: \$15 general admission; \$5 non-UCSB students; free for UCSB students and children under 12. Tickets are available at [music.ucsb.edu/news/purchase-tickets](http://music.ucsb.edu/news/purchase-tickets) or by calling (805) 893-2064.

## **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 (including this program’s Op. 119) 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

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### **“PAUL BERKOWITZ” 3-3-3**

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](http://music.ucsb.edu).

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