



Jacques Deprés

piano

Guest Artist Recital

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

5:30 pm

Organ Hall, School of Music

File: (FullName) (PMSC) .eps!
Creator: Adobe Illustrator® 8.0
Preview: This EPS picture was not saved with a preview (TIFF or PICT) included in it.
Comment: This EPS picture will print to a postscript printer but not to other types of printers.

Program

Scherzo Con Variazione, VB 193 (1785)

Joseph Martin Kraus
(1756-1792)

Sonata no. 15 in D Major, Op. 28 (1802)

Allegro
Andante
Scherzo-Allegro vivace
Rondo-Allegro ma non troppo

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Intermission

Papillons, Op. 2 (1829-1831)

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Fantasie, Op. 17 (1836)

Durchaus phantastisch und leidenschaftlich vorzutragen
Mäßig, Durchaus energisch
Langsam getragen, Durchweg leise zu halten

Robert Schumann

The hall is equipped with a listening assistance system.
Patrons needing such assistance should contact an usher in the lobby.



Widely acclaimed pianist Jacques Després has dazzled audiences for over three decades in his native Canada and the U.S. with his sensitive yet powerful style and sympathetic interpretations of a broad range of composers. Respected American critic Leslie Gerber took notice of this versatility by writing, "Few major pianists have given equally convincing performances of Beethoven and Chopin. The ability to play one composer's music very well seems almost to preclude doing as well with the other. But Després proved an exception to this rule...He immediately showed that he is a Bartok player after the composer's own heart."

Since his debut with the Montréal Orchestra Symphony Orchestra in 1978, Dr. Després has appeared as soloist with many other symphony orchestras under the baton of conductors including Otto-Werner Müller, Franz-Paul Decker, Jens Nygaard and Simon Streatfield. He also shared the stage, in gala concerts, with internationally renowned pianists Radu Lupu, Lazar Berman, Ilana

Vered, David Owen Norris, and Nicolai Petrov. Dr. Després' tours have included numerous recitals in Canada aired on CBC radio, and performances at summer festivals in North America. Dr. Després has established a solid reputation as a leading lecture-performance artist on both period and modern instruments. He was invited to speak on the Chopin Ballades at the Juilliard School, the early sonatas of Beethoven at the yearly Friends of the Arts Beethoven Festival on Long Island and the Bartók Mikrokosmos at Vanderbilt University. He also performed in many of the most important American universities, notably Dartmouth College, Northwestern University, Oregon State University, the University of Washington and St-Olaf College, to name but a few. The long list of Dr. Després' prestigious awards includes: The Frank Kopp Memorial Prize at the University of Maryland International Piano Competition; First Prize at the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Competition; and the Musical Academy of Quebec "Prix d'Europe" competition. He is also the recipient of numerous grants from the Juilliard School, the Quebec ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs, and the Canada Council.

The Complete Keyboard Works by Joseph Martin Kraus, Dr. Després' first release on Naxos (Gramophone's 2005 Label of the Year), has been heard on radio stations in at least four continents. On Amazon.com's German site, it became the bestselling recording by Kraus in spring of 2004. Dr. Després received praise for his interpretation from numerous reviewers including critic J. Scott Morrison, Amazon.com's top 30th reviewer ("I cannot praise his playing too highly"), as well as from W. Dean Sutcliffe, the editor of *Eighteenth-Century Music* from Cambridge University Press ("dramatic and rhetorically fluid reading... historically aware").

In addition to his first Naxos recording, highlights of the past few seasons included performances of Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini* and the Brahms *Piano Concerto No. 2*; the critically acclaimed world-release recording of on Naxos, and on Arktos, the world premiere recording of "The New Goldberg Variations" with cellist Tanya Prochazka as well as "Ballade," featuring solo works by Hétu, Debussy, Brahms and Chopin. In the spring of 2004, Dr. Després recorded works by Mozart, Beethoven and Wieniawsky with colleague and violinist Guillaume Tardif. In addition to scheduled concerts, in the 2004/2005 season, Dr. Després continued his association with Naxos by recording the complete works for violin and piano by Kraus with American violinist Walter Schwede.

Dr. Després completed his doctorate at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and holds a Masters degree from the Juilliard School of Music. He received with High Distinction the Artist Diploma from Indiana University, and was awarded a unanimous first prize from the Conservatory of Quebec, which invited him to perform recitals commemorating the school's 40th and 50th anniversaries. He studied under many of the great masters including György Sebök, Gilbert Kalish, Adele Marcus, William Masselos and Christiane Sénart. Dr. Després has taught at Western Washington University and in the fall 2000, joined the Music Department of the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He has recorded for the Eroica, VDE/Gallo, Naxos and Arktos CD labels.