

The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



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EASTERN MUSIC FESTIVAL BRINGS ITS STEINWAY PIANO
GALA TO ELON UNIVERSITY IN HONOR OF GEORGE
TROXLER
[CORRECTION]

Greensboro, NC- EMF presents the Annual Steinway Piano Gala **in honor of George Troxler** on **Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 8pm**. As a Tribute to Arthur Rubinstein, the concert will feature EMF Piano Faculty **James Giles, Yoshikazu Nagai, Gideon Rubin, and Peter Takács**, performing famous works by Brahms, Chopin and Liszt, amongst others. The gala will take place in **McCrary Theatre at Elon University**. Tickets may be purchased for \$19 by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at www.EasternMusicFestival.org. All proceeds will benefit the EMF Piano Scholarship Fund.

As retiring Dean of Cultural and Special Programs at Elon University, George Troxler has been a steady supporter of the EMF/Elon partnership over the past eleven years. Eastern Music Festival and Elon University are pleased to collaborate on this concert in his honor.

The evening will start with a lively rendition of Witold Lutoslawski's Variations on a Theme of Paganini. Also featured in the program will be classical masterpieces, such as: Selections from Sixteen Waltzes, op.39 by Johannes Brahms and *Scherzo* No. 2 in B-flat minor, op.31 by Frederic Chopin. Following this musical idea will be *Reminiscences de Don Juan* by Franz Liszt and Variations on a Theme of Beethoven, op.35 by Camille Saint-Saëns. Varied and forceful interpretations of celebrated works by Stravinsky and Manuel de Falla will combine the dazzling performers in the culmination of the gala.

More about the Piano Faculty

Gideon Rubin has a multi-faceted career that encompasses performing as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral keyboardist, conductor, and composer. As soloist, he has performed with the

Boston Symphony Orchestra in Boston's Symphony Hall, with the Boston Classical Orchestra, with the Mannes Orchestra, several times with the New World Symphony (once conducting from the keyboard), with the New England Conservatory Youth Orchestra on a tour of Israel, with the Longy School Orchestra, and at the Eastern Music Festival where he teaches and performs in the summers. His performance as soloist in John Adams' *Grand Pianola Music* (with the composer conducting) in San Francisco's Davies Hall in 2000 was featured on the "Jim Lehrer News Hour." He has performed on live radio broadcasts in Los Angeles, Boston, and Israel. He has performed solo and chamber music recitals throughout the United States and Europe. During the 2001-2002 season, he was the pianist for the Garth Newel Piano Quartet, performing concerts in Virginia and on tour in Sicily, Italy. From 1997-2000, he was the pianist/keyboardist for the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. He attended the Mannes School of Music and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree *cum laude* from Harvard University, a Master of Music from Boston University, and a doctorate from the University of Southern California. He now serves as music director and faculty member at the Los Angeles Music and Art School (LAMAS) where he won the award for "Teacher of the Year 2005." He is also the conductor and founding artistic director of the LAMAS Youth Orchestra, a chamber orchestra for ages 12-18 which is mentored by members of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Rubin is an active supporter of new music and has performed many new works in premieres, including some of his own compositions. He has recorded a solo CD of 20th century American music (available on cdbaby.com) and a CD of orchestral music by Steven Mackey on the RCA-BMG label as a member of the New World Symphony. His recording of piano quartets of Dvořák and Martinu with the Garth Newel Piano Quartet won "Best Classical Album of 2004" in the Just Plain Folks Music Awards. Recently, Dr. Rubin has performed at Symphony Space in New York City, the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., at the Myra Hess Foundation Concerts in Chicago, and on the Los Angeles County Museum's "Sundays Live" radio broadcast series. In 2009 Mr. Rubin returns for his eleventh season on the EMF piano faculty.

Yoshikazu Nagai has performed as soloist and chamber musician internationally in such venues as the Shanghai Concert Hall in China, National Recital Hall in Taiwan, Carnegie Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York, Kennedy Center's Terrace Theatre, Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall in Canada, and Seattle's Benaroya Hall. His extensive recital schedules in recent seasons have included performances in Taipei, Hong Kong, Italy, San Francisco, San Antonio, New York, Seattle, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C., among others. Mr. Nagai has also appeared at the Aspen Music Festival, the Sarasota Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, Spoleto Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, the Phillips Collection and in collaboration with Robert Mann, Anthony Marwood, and Yi-Bing Chu. In addition, he is a frequent soloist with orchestras throughout the U.S., and his performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio's "Performance Today," RAI (Italian National TV), Hong Kong National Radio, KUHF-Houston, KBYU-Salt Lake City, WCLV-Cleveland, and worldwide over the internet. Mr. Nagai won first prize at the 2002 Washington International Piano Competition and has also won major prizes at the San Antonio International Piano Competition, Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, New Orleans International Piano Competition, and the Concert Artists Guild International Music Competition (inaugural SVCCS performance prize). Mr. Nagai is currently professor of piano at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he teaches piano and chamber music. He is also on the piano faculty at the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy at Central Conservatory in China, as well as a former faculty member at the

Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, where he taught piano, chamber music and piano literature. Recognized by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) for excellence in teaching, he frequently gives master classes and serves as juror throughout the United States and Asia. Current and former students of Mr. Nagai are top prizewinners of national and international competitions including the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition, Music Teachers National Association Piano Competition, Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, Vladimir Viardo International Piano Competition, Lennox International Young Artists Piano Competition, and Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Mr. Nagai studied with John Perry at Rice University and received his Master of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he was awarded the Malvina Podis Prize in Piano upon graduation with Paul Schenly. Other teachers include Sergei Babayan and Duane Hulbert. Mr. Nagai returns for his seventh season at EMF.

James Giles regularly performs to acclaim in important musical centers in America, Europe, and Asia. The past few seasons have included a tour of China, performances in Italy and Bosnia, and a recital at Warsaw's Chopin Academy of Music. Last season, in addition to recitals in Chicago, Oklahoma, and Buffalo, he appeared with the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia. During 2008-2009, he will return to China for recitals and teaching at the Shanghai Conservatory; perform at the Virginia Waring Competition's Gala Benefit honoring Byron Janis; and perform concertos by Michael Daugherty and Timothy Dunne in Chicago and Ithaca.

In an eclectic repertoire encompassing the solo and chamber music literatures, Giles is equally at home in the standard repertoire as in the music of our time. He has commissioned and premiered works by William Bolcom, C. Curtis-Smith, Stephen Hough, Lowell Liebermann, Ned Rorem, Augusta Read Thomas, Earl Wild, and James Wintle. Most of these new works are featured on Giles' new Albany Records release entitled *American Virtuoso*.

His Paris recital at the Salle Cortot in 2004 was hailed as "a true revelation, due equally to the pianist's artistry as to his choice of program." After a recital at the Sibelius Academy, the critic for Helsinki's main newspaper wrote that "Giles is a technically polished, elegant pianist." And a London critic called his 2003 Wigmore Hall recital "one of the most sheerly inspired piano recitals I can remember hearing for some time" and added that "with a riveting intelligence given to everything he played, it was the kind of recital you never really forget."

In the fall of 2005, and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Giles joined three other pianists as a part of a "Pianists for New Orleans" tour. They raised over \$70,000 for the Musical Arts Society of New Orleans, a non-profit group that supports classical music in the city.

He has performed with New York's Jupiter Symphony, the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra in Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Kharkiv Philharmonic in Ukraine, and with the Opera Orchestra of New York in Alice Tully Hall. After his Tully Hall solo recital debut, critic Harris Goldsmith wrote: "Giles has a truly distinctive interpretive persona. This was beautiful pianism – direct and unmannered." Other tours have included concerts in Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Series, Salt Lake City's Assembly Hall Concert Series, and in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Musikhalle in Hamburg, and the Purcell Room at London's South Bank Centre. He has given live recitals over the public radio stations of New York, Boston, Chicago,

and Indianapolis. His compact disc of works by Schumann and Prokofiev is available on England's Master Musicians label. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with members of the National and Chicago symphonies and with members of the Pacifica, Cassatt, Chicago, Ying, Chester, St. Lawrence, Essex, Lincoln, and Miami quartets, as well as singers Aprile Millo and Anthony Dean Griffey.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Giles studied with Byron Janis at the Manhattan School of Music, Jerome Lowenthal at The Juilliard School, Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music, and Robert Shannon at Oberlin College.

The pianist received early career assistance from the Clarisse B. Kampel Foundation and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Florence with the legendary pianist Lazar Berman. He was the recipient of a fellowship grant and the \$25,000 Christel Award from the American Pianists Association and now serves on the APA's National Advisory Board. He won first prizes at the New Orleans International Piano Competition, the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition, and the Music Teachers National Association Competition. As a student, he was awarded the prestigious William Petschek Scholarship at The Juilliard School and the Rudolf Serkin Award for outstanding graduate at the Oberlin College Conservatory. He has written for *Piano and Keyboard* magazine and has presented lecture-recitals at the national conventions of the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, and Pi Kappa Lambda. He has served on the juries of several international piano competitions, including the Cleveland International Piano Competition (screening jury), New Orleans International Piano Competition, and the Oberlin International Piano Competition.

Dr. Giles is on the piano faculty at Northwestern University. He has served as conference artist for the music teachers associations of Oklahoma, Arizona, and Nevada and frequently gives master classes at colleges and universities nationwide. He has been a guest professor at the Sibelius Academy in Finland and at Indiana University, where he has twice taught the students of Menahem Pressler. He has served on the faculties of the University of North Texas and the Interlochen Arts Academy. He is the founder of the Las Vegas Piano Institute, an educational summer program for young pianists, and is the chair of the piano department at the Eastern Music Festival during the summers, now in his 14th year. More information may be found at jamesgiles.net.

Hailed by the *New York Times* as "a marvelous pianist," **Peter Takács** has performed widely, receiving critical and audience acclaim for his penetrating and communicative interpretations. Born in Bucharest, Romania, he gave his first recital at the age of seven and, upon emigration to France, continued his studies at the Paris Conservatory.

Upon his arrival in the United States, Mr. Takacs received full scholarships to Northwestern University, the University of Illinois, and the Peabody Conservatory, where he completed his artistic training with the distinguished pianist Leon Fleisher.

He has received numerous prizes and awards, including first prize in the William Kapell Competition, the C. D. Jackson Award for excellence in chamber music at the Tanglewood Music Center, and a Solo Recitalist grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has performed with major orchestras in this country and abroad, and he has been in demand at

prestigious summer festivals throughout the world. His recording of the Beethoven *Piano Sonata* cycle is scheduled to be released on the CAMBRIA label in 2009.

Mr. Takács is professor of piano at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he has been teaching since 1976.

Tickets: Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

**Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Doseff, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27th (EMF*fringe* season tickets on sale through July 9th); single tickets on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.EasternMusicFestival.org, or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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