

STEPHEN HOUGH PLAYS BEETHOVEN

Friday, May 22, 2015, 8pm

Saturday, May 23, 2015, 8pm

Sunday, May 24, 2015, 2pm

Performances are at the Jacobs Music Center's Copley Symphony Hall. Please join us 45 minutes before the concert begins for Nuvi Mehta's "What's The Score?" discussion about this program.

PROGRAM

AARON JAY KERNIS *Musica celestis*

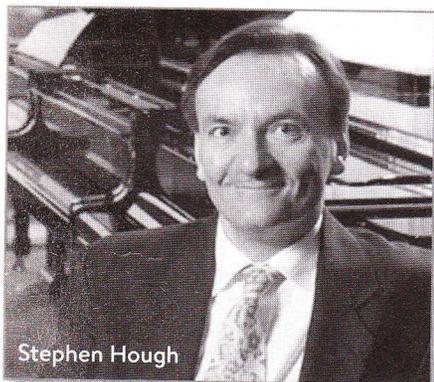
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37
 Allegro con brio
 Largo
 Rondo: Allegro
Stephen Hough, piano

Jahja Ling, conductor
Stephen Hough, piano

INTERMISSION

JOHANNES BRAHMS Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73
 Allegro non troppo
 Adagio non troppo
 Allegretto grazioso (Quasi andantino)
 Allegro con spirito

The approximate running time for this program, including intermission, is two hours and five minutes.



Stephen Hough

Stephen Hough is regarded as a renaissance man of his time. Over the course of his career he has distinguished himself as a true polymath, not

only securing a reputation as a uniquely insightful concert pianist but also as a writer and composer. Mr. Hough is commended for his mastery of the instrument along with an individual and inquisitive mind which has earned him a multitude of prestigious awards and a long-standing international following.

In 2001 Mr. Hough was the first classical performing artist to win a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. He was awarded Northwestern University's 2008 Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano, won the Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumentalist Award in 2010 and in January 2014 was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth in the

New Year's Honors List. He has appeared with most of the major European and American orchestras and plays recitals regularly in major halls and concert series around the world. His recent engagements include recitals in Chicago, Hong Kong, London, New York's Lincoln Center, Paris, San Francisco and Sydney; performances with the Czech, London, Los Angeles and New York Philharmonics, the Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, National, Montreal, Atlanta and Toronto symphonies, and the Cleveland, Philadelphia, Minnesota, Budapest Festival and Russian National Orchestras; and a performance televised worldwide with the Berlin Philharmonic and Sir Simon Rattle. He is also a regular

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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guest at festivals such as Aldeburgh, Aspen, Blossom, Edinburgh, Hollywood Bowl, Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, Salzburg, Tanglewood, Verbier and the BBC Proms, where he has made over 20 concerto appearances, including playing all of the works written by Tchaikovsky for piano and orchestra over the summer of 2009, a series he later repeated with the Chicago Symphony.

Mr. Hough's 2014-15 season begins with return visits to the Bravo! Vail Valley Festival to work with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, to Aspen, Chicago's Grant Park Music Festival and the Blossom Festival to work with the Cleveland Orchestra, and it continues with an extensive tour to Asia and Australia. He appears twice in Carnegie Hall – for a recital in Stern Auditorium and as the featured soloist with the Orchestra of St. Luke's – and appears with numerous North American orchestras, including re-engagements with the Dallas and Detroit symphonies. In addition to New York, he appears in recital in Boston, San Francisco, Atlanta, the Kennedy Center, Cincinnati and at the Savannah Music Festival. Highlights of his European season include performing and recording the Dvořák and Schumann piano concertos with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Andris Nelsons and a recital in London's Royal Festival Hall.

Many of Mr. Hough's catalogue of over 50 albums have garnered international prizes including the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, Diapason d'Or, Monde de la Musique, several Grammy® nominations, eight *Gramophone Magazine* Awards including "Record of the Year" in 1996 and 2003, and the Gramophone "Gold Disc" Award in 2008, which named his complete Saint-Saëns Piano Concertos as the best recording of the past 30 years. His 2012 recording of the complete Chopin Waltzes received the Diapason d'Or de l'Annee, France's most prestigious recording award. His 2005 live recording of the Rachmaninoff Piano Concertos was the fastest selling recording in Hyperion's history, while his 1987 recording of the Hummel concertos remains Chandos' best-selling disc to date. Mr. Hough's most recent releases, all for Hyperion, include *Stephen Hough's French Album* featuring works by Faure, Ravel, Debussy, Poulenc and Mr. Hough's

own arrangements of works by Massenet and Delibes; the two Brahms Piano Concertos with the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra under Mark Wigglesworth; and *In the Night* featuring Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, Schumann's *Carnaval* and his third second piano sonata *notturmo luminoso*.

Mr. Hough is also the featured artist in an iPad app about the Liszt Piano Sonata, which includes a fully-filmed performance, released by the cutting-edge, award-winning company Touch Press.

Published by Josef Weinberger, Mr. Hough has composed works for orchestra, choir, chamber ensemble and solo piano. His *Mass of Innocence* and *Experience* and *Missa Mirabilis* were respectively commissioned by and performed at London's Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral. In 2012 the Indianapolis Symphony commissioned and performed Mr. Hough's own orchestration of *Missa Mirabilis*, which was subsequently performed by the BBC Symphony as part of Mr. Hough's residency with the orchestra. Mr. Hough has also been commissioned by the musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic, London's National Gallery, Wigmore Hall, Le Musée de Louvre and Musica Viva Australia among others, and he has performed his two piano sonatas, Sonata No. 1 (*broken branches*) and Sonata No. 2 (*notturmo luminoso*) on recital programs in London, New York, St. Paul and Chicago.

A noted writer, Mr. Hough regularly contributes articles for *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Tablet*, *Gramophone* and *BBC Music Magazine*, and he was invited by *The Telegraph* in London in 2008 to start a blog that has become one of the most popular and influential forums for cultural discussion. His book, *The Bible as Prayer*, was published by Continuum and Paulist Press in 2007.

Stephen Hough resides in London where he is a visiting professor at the Royal Academy of Music and holds the International Chair of Piano Studies at his alma mater, the Royal Northern College in Manchester. As of September 2014 he is a member of the faculty at The Juilliard School. To find out more about Mr. Hough, please visit his website stephenhough.com or Facebook fan page. ■

PROGRAM NOTES

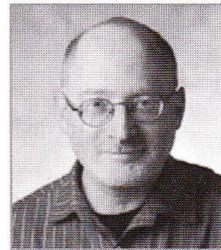
by Eric Bromberger

Musica celestis

AARON JAY KERNIS

Born January 15, 1960, Philadelphia

Approx. 11 minutes



Aaron Jay Kernis composed his String Quartet No. 1 in 1990, and it was first performed in November of that year by the Lark Quartet.

But Kernis saw larger possibilities in the quartet's slow movement, and the following year he arranged that movement for string orchestra. Titled *Musica celestis* (Music of the Heavens), the new work was premiered on March 30, 1992, by the Sinfonia San Francisco under the direction of Ransom Wilson. In a note in the published score, Kernis says: "*Musica celestis* is inspired by the medieval conception of that phrase, which refers to the singing of the angels in heaven in praise of God without end . . . *Musica celestis* follows a simple, spacious melody and harmonic pattern through a number of variations (like a passacaglia) and is framed by an introduction and coda."

The angels sing with extraordinary clarity and luminosity in the 11-minute *Musica celestis*, which is cast in a slow-fast-slow structure. The ethereal introduction gradually makes way for the long principal melody. This is stated slowly at first but then accelerates across the span of its transformations, growing more animated as it proceeds. This energy breaks off suddenly in mid-phrase, and material from the introduction returns to draw the music into silence. Throughout, Kernis writes with a subtle sense of string color (he trained originally as a violinist): solo instruments are set in contrast to the larger string orchestra, at moments some but not all of the instruments are muted, particular passages

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Symphony Orchestra
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