



## Russell Sherman, pianist

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Sonetta del Petrarca, No. 104 in E Major  
from *Années de pèlerinage II*

### 12 Études d'exécution transcendante

- I. *Preludio*
- II. *Molto vivace*
- III. *Paysage*
- IV. *Mazeppa*
- V. *Feux Follets*
- VI. *Vision*
- VII. *Eroica*

\*\*\**intermission*\*\*\*

- VIII. *Wilde Jagd*
- IX. *Ricordanza*
- X. *Allegro agitato molto*
- XI. *Harmonies du soir*
- XII. *Chasse-neige*

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

8:00 P.M.

*Chapin Hall*

*Williamstown, Massachusetts*

#### Upcoming Events:

- 11/20: Piano Master Class: Russell Sherman, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 12:00 p.m.
- 11/21: Berkshire Symphony Orchestra, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.  
Pre-Concert Talk, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 7:15 p.m.
- 11/22: Williams Percussion Ensemble, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
- 11/23: Student Recital: Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, St. John's Episcopal Church, 4:00 p.m.
- 12/3: MIDWEEKMUSIC, Chapin Hall, 12:15 p.m.
- 12/3: Instructor Violin Recital, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 4:00 p.m.
- 12/3: Williams Chamber Winds and Williams Chamber Players, Chapin Hall, 8:00 p.m.
- 12/4: Music 212 (Jazz Theory and Improvisation) Instructor Recital, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- 12/5: Song-writing Master Class with Debbie Deane, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 4:00 p.m.
- 12/5: Brahms with Joanna Kurkowicz, violin and Doris Stevenson, piano, Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall, 8:00 p.m.

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*Please turn off or mute cell phones.  
No photography or recording is permitted.*

## Russell Sherman, pianist

“Russell Sherman is quite simply one of the best pianists in this or any other country.”

– *The New York Times*

An eloquent communicator both on and off the concert stage, pianist Russell Sherman continues to garner accolades from critics and audiences alike for his grace, imagination and poetry. As the author of a highly acclaimed book *Piano Pieces* (a rhapsodic compilation of vignettes and personal anecdotes from Mr. Sherman's life experiences as a pianist and teacher), Russell Sherman has been praised not only as an ingenious virtuoso but also as an insightful master.

Mr. Sherman has performed with such major orchestras as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's (with whom he performed the five Beethoven concertos), Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony. Abroad, Mr. Sherman has played in the major cities of Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Korea, China, Russia and South America.

In recital, Russell Sherman has appeared on Carnegie Hall's Keyboard Virtuoso Series, California's Ambassador Foundation Series, the Distinguished Artists Series at New York's Tisch Center for the Arts at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, and the Bank of Boston Celebrity Series. He has performed at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Sarasota's Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Jordan Hall, Columbia University's Miller Theatre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Chicago's Orchestra Hall. Additionally, he has appeared at the Ravinia Festival, the Hollywood Bowl and the Mostly Mozart Festival, as well as recitals at Spain's Santander Festival and Germany's Ruhr Triennale Festival.

Mr. Sherman is a prolific recording artist. He has recorded the five Beethoven concertos with the Czech Philharmonic and the Mondadnock Festival Orchestra, and the complete Beethoven sonatas, recorded as five dual-CD sets (each having been released individually and as a complete set.) The entire Beethoven sonatas project has been called “a set for the ages” by Bernard Jacobson in *Fanfare*. This makes Mr. Sherman the first American pianist to have recorded all of the sonatas and concertos of Beethoven. His earlier recording of Liszt's *Transcendental Études* was critically acclaimed: Anthony Tommasini in a 1999 *New York Times* piece said, “Several impressive recordings of Liszt's ‘Transcendental Études’ prove that these audaciously difficult works are actually playable and triumphantly pianistic. But none make Liszt's visionary understanding of what the piano could do more palpable and exciting than Russell Sherman's extraordinary 1990 recording.” Mr. Sherman has also recorded Gershwin's *Piano Concerto in F*, Brahms' *Variations of a Theme by Paganini*, Op. 35 and *Fantasies*, Op. 116, Chopin's 24 *Preludes*, Op. 28, Schubert's *Sonata in D major*, D. 850 and *Sonata in B-flat major*, D. 960, both Grieg and Schumann concertos and works by Liszt, including the *B minor Sonata*, *Don Juan Fantasy*, and transcriptions. He has also recorded Mozart's two concertos in minor keys plus solo fantasies with the Orchestra of Emmanuel Music under Craig Smith. Additional recordings included a GM Recording CD, “Premieres & Commissions,” in which he performs contemporary repertoire by Schoenberg, Schuller, Halps, Perle and Shapey, which, with the exception of Schoenberg's *Six Piano Pieces*, Mr. Sherman has personally premiered and commissioned. Mr. Sherman's newest releases on Avie Records are a CD of Debussy's *Estampes*, *Images Book II* and *Préludes Book II*, and a DVD of his live performance of the Liszt *Études d'exécution transcendante*. Recently, Mr. Sherman performed and recorded the complete sonatas of Mozart, the Bach *English Suites*, and the complete Chopin *Mazurkas*.

Russell Sherman was born and educated in New York, beginning piano studies at age six. By age eleven, Mr. Sherman was studying with Eduard Steuermann, a pupil and friend of Ferruccio Busoni and Arnold Schoenberg. Sherman graduated from Columbia University at age nineteen with a degree in humanities. He was Visiting Professor at Harvard University and is currently a Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at the New England Conservatory. With a brilliant career and creative imagination, Sherman continues to merit the title “a thinking man's virtuoso.”