

## Christopher Taylor pianist

Christopher Taylor is an innovative musician acclaimed as “frighteningly talented” (*New York Times*) and as “seemingly possessed of superhuman powers” (*Los Angeles Times*) for his diverse array of talents and interests. He is known for a passionate advocacy of music written in the past 100 years — Messiaen, Ligeti, and Bolcom figure prominently in his performances — as well as a repertoire that spans four centuries and includes the complete Beethoven sonatas, the Liszt Transcendental Etudes, Bach’s Goldberg Variations, and a multitude of other familiar masterworks. Whatever the genre or era of the composition, Mr. Taylor brings to it an active imagination and intellect coupled with heartfelt intensity and grace.

Beyond his appearances at such distinguished venues as Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Kennedy Center, and the Ravinia and Aspen Music Festivals, Taylor has concertized around the globe, from Korea and China, to Russia, Singapore, Italy, and Venezuela. At home in the U.S., he gave the world premiere of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies’ *Sea Orpheus* at Carnegie Hall during a tour with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Houston Symphony, and the Boston Pops among others.

In the recording studio, Christopher Taylor has brought alive a wide variety of repertoire, from the Liszt Transcendental Etudes to Olivier Messiaen’s towering *Vingt Regards sur l’enfant-Jésus* to William Bolcom’s *Twelve New Etudes*, which was noted as a “stunning new recording” by *The New Yorker*.

He has collaborated with many of today’s eminent musicians, including Robert McDuffie, Robert Mann and the Ying, Borromeo, Shanghai and Pro Arte Quartets. With the Pro Arte Taylor has made the premiere recording of Bolcom’s Piano Quintet #2.

Recent performance highlights include the Lutoslawski Concerto with the Milwaukee Symphony, his debut at the Metropolitan Museum of Art performing the Messiaen *Vingt regards* from memory followed by an immediate return to New York for a pairing of Bach and Rzewski, about which the Times praised his “passionate precision” and named him “a dazzlingly virtuosic and thoughtful musician”.

Apart from concertizing and recording, Mr. Taylor has undertaken various unusual projects, including: The commission and premiere of a piano concerto by Derek



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Bermel with the Indianapolis Symphony, made possible by a Christel Award from the American Pianists' Association; performances and lectures on the complete etudes of György Ligeti; and a series of performances of the Goldberg Variations on the unique double-manual Steinway piano in the collection of the University of Wisconsin. He has actively promoted the rediscovery and refurbishment of this unique Steinway and is in the process of developing a modernized version of it.

Numerous awards have confirmed Mr. Taylor's high standing in the musical world. He was named an American Pianists' Association Fellow for 2000, before which he received an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1996 and the Bronze Medal in the 1993 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. In 1990 he took first prize in the William Kapell International Piano Competition, and also became one of the first recipients of the Irving Gilmore Young Artists' Award.

Mr. Taylor owes much of his success to several outstanding teachers, including Russell Sherman, Maria Curcio-Diamand, Francisco Aybar, and Julie Bees. In addition to his busy concert schedule, he currently serves as Paul Collins Professor of Piano Performance at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He pursues a variety of other interests, including: mathematics (he received a *summa cum laude* degree from Harvard University in this field in 1992); philosophy (an article he coauthored with the leading scholar Daniel Dennett appears in the Oxford Free Will Handbook); computing (recent projects include topographic mapping software and a novel system of text entry for Android phones); linguistics; and biking, which is his primary means of commuting. Mr. Taylor lives in Middleton, Wisconsin, with his wife and two daughters. Christopher Taylor is a Steinway artist.

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