

For Immediate Release
Summer 2010

Donald Berman Receives Prestigious Radcliffe Fellowship to Mine Musical Gems from Vast Harvard Archives

800 Scores in Nadia Boulanger Collection to Serve as Square One



Photo credit: Gil Gilbert

American pianist **Donald Berman** has been named one of only 48 individuals to be awarded a fellowship for the 2010-2011 academic year at the prestigious **Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University**. The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, established in 1999, is a highly competitive program providing year-long residencies to a small number of exceptionally distinguished writers, artists, scientists and other scholars chosen annually to work and study in each other's company at Harvard. Among the 500 fortunate recipients of the Radcliffe fellowship over the years are eminent scholars in biomedicine, history, economics, psychology and a broad range of disciplines in the sciences and social sciences; in the arts, winners in past years have included filmmakers, artists, composers such as Rome Prize-winner Lisa Bielawa, and award-winning writers like Zadie Smith, Natasha Trethewey, Claire Messud and Junot Diaz. The topic for Mr. Berman's pursuits in the coming year will be *Dead or Alive: Resurrecting Forgotten Treasures from the Harvard Music Libraries and Performing Them*. His first order of business will be to examine 800 scores bequeathed to Harvard by the eminent French pedagogue **Nadia Boulanger**.

The Harvard Music Libraries house thousands of musical scores, including many original works long forgotten or neglected which deserve dissemination and performance. Finding the scores and separating the wheat from the chaff is a musico-anthropological undertaking of mammoth proportions which Donald Berman is uniquely qualified to take on. From 1998 to 2009 Mr. Berman conceived and developed a similar project, unearthing compositions hidden in dusty file cabinets at the **American Academy in Rome**, ultimately discovering dozens of worthy compositions by American composers. The works were performed at four enthusiastically received concerts at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City, from which a four-CD set of recordings was

eventually produced (*Americans in Rome: Music by Fellows of the American Academy in Rome* Bridge Records 9271 A/D).

Mr. Berman's 2010-2011 season begins at the **New England Conservatory's Summer Piano Institute**, of which he is **Co-Director**. This year the Piano Institute will explore the music of **Clara and Robert Schumann**. Mr. Berman will conduct workshops, masterclasses and lectures, and perform in a faculty recital on Saturday, July 10th. His performing schedule for the season will of necessity be abbreviated by his commitment to his Radcliffe Fellowship, but he will nevertheless be heard at concerts throughout the Northeast (see itinerary below) in repertoire ranging from works by Bach to Boykan, Crumb, Wheeler and Charles Ives, in whose music he is an acknowledged expert.

Donald Berman is recognized as one of the chief exponents of new works by living composers, overlooked music by 20th and 21st century masters, and recitals that link classical and modern repertoires. He has established an extensive discography in the works of major American composers, including Ives, Ruggles, Kernis, Levering, Wheeler, Boykan, and many others. Winner of the Classical Recording Foundation's Samuel Sanders Collaborative

Artist Award, Mr. Berman's most recent recordings include the eponymously titled CD of the works of composer Su Lian Tan (ARSIS Audio CD 176), and in September 2010, a collection of songs by Scott Wheeler to be released on Naxos. His recordings *Americans in Rome* (Bridge 9271 A/D), and, with soprano Susan Narucki, *The Light That Is Felt* (Ives songs; New World 80680) were each named CD of the Month by *BBC Music Magazine*. As a solo artist, Mr. Berman's acclaimed 2-volume *The Unknown Ives* represents the only recording of the complete short piano works of Charles Ives extant. On *The Uncovered Ruggles* Mr. Berman offers premiere recordings of unpublished sketches, transcriptions, and realizations of Ruggles' music by John Kirkpatrick. Mr. Berman's virtuosity and versatility have received critical acclaim not only in the U.S. but also in Europe and the Middle East. As an educator, Mr. Berman has presented recitals, lectures, and masterclasses in Israel, Italy, and throughout the U.S.; he teaches at Tufts University and directs the New England Conservatory Summer Piano Institute, where composers of the Romantic period are studied intensively with a focus on merging scholarship with historical performance practice. A prizewinner of the 1991 Schubert International Competition, Mr. Berman studied with Leonard Shure, John Kirkpatrick, George Barth, and Mildred Victor. He lives with his wife and two children in Boston.

A pianist on the cutting edge of presenting new repertoire and revisiting the standard repertoire with fresh and informed interpretations, Mr. Berman has been called "Stunning...exemplary...adventurous...substantive...a superb pianist" (*NY Times*), "Invaluable" (*New Yorker*), and "A pianist of stupendous abilities" (*Boston Globe*).

Selected Performances in 2010-2011 Season

10 JUL	NEC Summer Piano Institute	Boston, MA	<i>C. Schumann, R. Schumann</i>
14 JUL	Broyhill Chamber Music Festival	Boone, NC	<i>Bach, Bach-Busoni, Brahms, Stravinsky, Crumb et al.</i>
14 AUG	Monadnock Festival	Peterborough, NH	<i>Schoenberg</i>
15 AUG	Monadnock Festival	Joffrey, NH	<i>Brahms, Schumann</i>
03 OCT	Harvard University	Cambridge, MA	<i>Ives, Yu-Hui Chang</i>
04 OCT	Classical Rec. Fdn. Awards	New York, NY	<i>Scott Wheeler</i>
05 NOV	Wesleyan University	Middletown, CT	<i>Chopin, Schumann, Berio, Fauré, Scarlatti, Ives, Moe</i>
14 NOV	Bass Museum	Miami, FL	<i>Fauré, Debussy, Stravinsky</i>
18 NOV	Workshop for Music Performance	New York, NY	<i>Fauré, Debussy, Stravinsky</i>

17 FEB	Brandeis University	Waltham, MA	<i>Martin Boykan</i>
24 FEB	Denver University	Denver, CO	<i>Ives, Bach, Sheng, Tan, Rakowski</i>
10 APR	Bass Museum	Miami, FL	tba
28 APR	Workshop for Music Performance	New York, NY	tba
01 MAY	Dinosaur Annex at Goethe Institut	Boston, MA	<i>Lieberson, Schiffrin, Boykan</i>

For more information about Donald Berman, call 831-620-1332
and visit donaldbermanpiano.com, artofthestates.org, and kathrynkingmedia.com.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS • AUDIO & VIDEO PRODUCTION

4089 Pine Meadows Way * Pebble Beach, California 93953

Tel. 831-620-1332 * Fax 831-417-6444 * Email: info@kathrynkingmedia.com