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Gregory Partain, Piano

Cedarville University

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THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

PRESENTS

GREGORY PARTAIN, PIANO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017, 7:30 P.M.

PROGRAM

- Fantasia in C Major*, Op. 17 (1836) Robert Schumann (1810–1856)
- I. Durchaus fantastisch und leidenschaftlich vorzutragen; Im Legenden-Ton (Fantastical and passionate throughout. Slow middle section: “In the tone of a legend.”)
 - II. Mäßig. Durchaus energisch (Moderate tempo. Energetic throughout.)
 - III. Langsam getragen. Durchweg leise zu halten (Slow and majestic. Gentle throughout.)

INTERMISSION

- French Suite No. 5 in G Major*, BWV 816 (1723) J. S. Bach (1685–1750)
1. Allemande (lyrical and amiable)
 2. Courante (“running”)
 3. Sarabande (stately and poignant)
 4. Gavotte (elegant, with vitality)
 5. Bourée (energetic and physical)
 6. Loure (a slow jig)
 7. Gigue (“Jig.” Rollicking!)

- Prelude in D \flat Major*, Op. 17, No. 3 (1896) Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915)
Etude in c# minor, Op. 2, No. 1 (1887)

- Prelude in D major*, Op. 23, no. 4 (1903) Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)
Prelude in b minor, Op. 32, no. 10 (1910)

- Piano Sonata No. 7 in B \flat Major*, Op. 83 (1942) Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)
III. Precipitato

Gregory Partain, pianist

In his three decades on the concert stage, Gregory Partain has performed as recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber music collaborator throughout the United States, as well as in Germany, Poland, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Russia, and Greece. Recent solo projects include *Beethoven's Odyssey*—a seven-evening lecture-recital series comprising 22 Beethoven sonatas, with performances in Portland (OR), Boston, Chicago, Lexington (KY) and other U.S. cities.

Partain has appeared with the Seattle Symphony, orchestras of Yaroslavl (Russia) and Athens (Greece), the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sunriver and Peter Britt summer festival orchestras, and the Eugene (OR) Symphony, among others. He has garnered consistent critical acclaim for his recordings of a wide-ranging repertoire that encompasses the 17th to 21st centuries: "...some of the best Scarlatti I've ever heard..." (American Record Guide); "...suave and comfortable performances of three Rachmaninoff Preludes. In the Brahms, the tempo relationships and transition emerge in a seamless, cumulative arc" (Gramophone); "Gregory Partain is a gifted pianist, and every item is intelligently and sympathetically played" (BBC Music Magazine).

Partain made his formal debut as a composer in 1998 with performances of *Two Songs for Harp and Soprano on Poems of William Butler Yeats*, followed by *Come to the Garden in Spring*, a song cycle based on love poems of Rumi, the 13th-century Islamic mystic. He composed a large-scale concert *Requiem* for a cappella choir as the 2005 Kentucky Music Teachers Association Commissioned Composer; a greatly expanded iteration of *Requiem* for double choir and full orchestra was premiered in Lexington, Kentucky in 2015 by 250 performers. In 2007, he was awarded the Kentucky Arts Council Al Smith Artist Fellowship for Composition.

Dr. Partain received his B.M. degree in Piano Performance from the University of Washington, and Masters and Doctoral degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. His principle teachers include Gregory Allen, Nancy Burton Garrett, and John T. Moore. He also coached privately with Claude Frank and studied with Jerome Lowenthal and Paul Schenly at the Music Academy of the West. He has taught at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY since 1991.