

Masthead Logo

Cedarville University
DigitalCommons@Cedarville

Guest Artists

Concert and Recital Programs

3-21-2019

Nicholas Ross, Piano

Cedarville University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/guest_artists

Part of the [Music Performance Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cedarville University, "Nicholas Ross, Piano" (2019). *Guest Artists*. 42.
https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/guest_artists/42

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Guest Artists by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@cedarville.edu.

Footer Logo

THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

PRESENTS

NICHOLAS ROSS, PIANO

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019, 7:30 PM

PROGRAM

Concert Album (For the Left Hand Alone) Leopold Godowsky (1870–1938)

Meditation

Impromptu

Capriccio patetico

Intermezzo melanconico

Elegy

Etude macabre

5 Studies for the Piano, Anh. Ia/1 Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

V. Chaconne by J. S. Bach

(arr. of Violin Partita No. 2 in d minor, BWV 1004, V: Chaconne)

Intermission

Peregrinations Kent Holliday (b. 1940)

Two Studies for the Left Hand

I. Largo

II. Presto

Suite for the Left Hand Alone Leopold Godowsky

Allemande

Courante

Gavotte

Sarabande

Bourrée

Sicilienne

Menuet

Gigue

Nicholas Ross, pianist

Pianist Nick Ross performs as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe. He has performed recitals and concertos at such venues as St. Martin's-in-the-Field, St. John's Smith Square, London, the Field Room in Dublin, and the Engelse Kerk in Amsterdam.

Ross is a Professor of Music and Associate Chair of the Music Department at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio, where he teaches piano, music theory, and specialized piano courses. Previously he was a professor at Sweet Briar College, Virginia. Ross is active as a recording artist, and he has released four solo piano recordings, as well as two

collaborative discs of Arthur Honegger's music. He records for the Centaur Records label. Ross's scholarly research has focused in recent years on proportional structures and the golden ratio in the music of Mozart, Debussy, Bartók and others. He has presented lecture recitals on the topic at conferences in Lancaster, Krakow, and at various universities and colleges in the US.



His primary piano professors were John Perry, John Bingham, Benno Pierweijer and Matthijs Verschoor. In addition, he worked with Christine Croshaw and David Newbold on collaborative piano, and played in masterclasses and courses for Graham Johnson, Christopher Czaja Sager and Theodore Paraskivesko among others. He obtained piano performance degrees from ArtEz in the Netherlands, Trinity College of Music in London, and a DMA degree in piano performance from Rice University.

Program Notes

Leopold Godowsky (1870-1938) was an American pianist and composer of Polish birth. Largely self-taught both as a pianist and composer, he became one of the most celebrated virtuosos of his age, and a great innovator of pianistic techniques. One of Godowsky's enduring legacies was his contribution to the left-handed piano literature. Godowsky's first compositions for the left hand were a series of paraphrases on Chopin's studies, written before World War I. Godowsky's interest in the left-hand genre was revived due to a commission by pianist Paul Wittgenstein in 1928. There followed a flood of works over the next two years. Foremost among these works is the Suite for the Left Hand Alone. Other works from this period include six Waltz-Poems and a set of beautiful character pieces, originally published as Concert Album.

Godowsky's goal in writing for this medium was to expand the technical capabilities for all pianists – not just those who could not play with the right hand- through creative use of the pedals and unusual fingerings. Furthermore, he deliberately avoided acrobatic virtuosity. The challenges relate to contrapuntal complexity and dividing the hand to simultaneously fulfill different functions. Most importantly, though, he wished to create beautiful music. He came to believe that these works were his finest compositions, despite the self-imposed limitations of writing for a single hand.

American composer Kent Holliday writes remarkably for the piano, pairing virtuosity and lyricism. His music has been championed by pianists such as Tzimon Barto and Martin Jones. Ross will perform his recently composed Peregrinations and Two Studies for the Left Hand, important contributions to left hand literature that, like Godowsky's works, transcend the limitations of playing with a single hand.

The program also features Brahms's transcription of Bach's celebrated D minor Chaconne for the left hand. The work is a more or less literal transcription (transposed down an octave), yet it is more than simply a valuable study for the left hand thanks to the fascinating dynamics, pedal indications and articulation added by Brahms.