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John Mortensen, Piano

John Mortensen

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THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

PRESENTS

IN FACULTY PIANO RECITAL

JOHN MORTENSEN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015
7 P.M.

RECITAL HALL
BOLTHOUSE CENTER FOR MUSIC
DIXON MINISTRY CENTER

PROGRAM

Music to be selected from the following:

Keyboard Sonatas Domenico Scarlatti
(1685–1757)

Chaconne in d minor J. S. Bach
(1685–1750)
arr. Ferruccio Busoni (1866–1924)

Crazy Quilt/Modern Music Patrick Zimmerli
(b. 1968)
arr. John Mortensen (b. 1965)

Round Midnight Thelonious Monk
(1917–1982)

Take Five Paul Desmond
(1924–1977)

Milonga del angel/Libertango Ástor Piazzolla
(1921–1992)
arr. John Mortensen (b. 1965)

*No flash photography, please.
Please turn off all cell phones.*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Pianist John Mortensen pursues a career of unusual stylistic diversity, performing in classical, jazz, and Irish music traditions.

He is endorsed as an Ohio Artist on Tour through the Ohio Arts Council. In 2015 he was selected for the Fulbright Specialist Roster by the US Department of State. Over the next five years the Fulbright program will sponsor him to perform and teach at universities internationally as a cultural ambassador of the United States.

He appears frequently as concert artist and masterclass teacher at colleges and universities. Solo piano engagements for 2015-2016 include Western Michigan University, Hope College, Andrews University, University of Dayton, Indiana Wesleyan University, Butler University, University of Evansville, Kentucky State University, Michigan State University, and the Dayton Art Institute.

He also performs and teaches Irish and American roots music, playing mandolin, Irish flute, Irish button accordion, Uilleann pipes, and Irish whistle. He created America's first college-level traditional Irish music session class.

Mortensen is committed to educating young musicians for the 21st century and places special emphasis on developing courses that bring improvisation back to the standard college music curriculum. He has presented his work on improvisation pedagogy to national audiences of college music faculty.

His students learn a natural and coordinated approach to piano technique which prevents injury and allows for unprecedented freedom and facility at the keyboard.

After his concert in Eisk, Russian Federation, the Russian press wrote that "for John Mortensen Russia has always been close musically. He plays with especial passion the works of Sergei Rachmaninoff. 'I don't speak Russian, I speak Rachmaninoff,' was heard from the mouth of the pianist during the concert. And truly, during the performance of the work of the great Russian composer, in the hall peoples of different nationalities disappeared — it seemed from the stage sang and wept the Russian soul. The chords of the next Rachmaninoff prelude had not even been played, and the hall was already conquered."

His publications appear in International Piano, Clavier, College Music Symposium, and American Music Teacher.

Mortensen studied with Lynne Bartholomew at the University of Michigan and Anne Koscielny and Raymond Hanson at the University of Maryland, receiving his doctorate in piano performance from the latter. He holds National Certification in Piano through the Music Teacher's National Association.

Visit his website at www.johnmortensen.com



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