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John Mortensen Receives Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Lithuania for Concert Tour, Teaching, and Research

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- The U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board are pleased to announce that Dr. John Mortensen of Cedarville University has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to Lithuania in the discipline of music. Mortensen is internationally recognized as a leader in the revival of historic keyboard improvisation. His students include faculty from leading music conservatories around the world. He will concertize, lecture, and research at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and throughout the county as an artistic ambassador on behalf of the American people.

Dr. Mortensen is one of over 800 U.S. citizens who will teach, conduct research, and/or provide expertise abroad for the 2019-2020 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as record of service and demonstrated leadership in their respective fields.

About Dr. John Mortensen

Dr. Mortensen is internationally recognized as a leader in the revival of classical improvisation, the system of musical thinking that allows performers to create complex works in real time. In concert Mortensen regularly improvises complete fugues and other pieces in 18th century styles. He appears frequently as a concert artist and masterclass teacher at colleges and universities in the USA and overseas.

His recent book, *The Pianist's Guide to Classical Improvisation*, is the only comprehensive, modern method on classical improvisation for the advanced pianist. His publications appear in *International Piano*, *Clavier*, *College Music Symposium*, *Piano Pedagogy Forum*, and *American Music Teacher*.

Mortensen earned a bachelor's degree in piano performance while studying under Lynne Bartholomew at the University of Michigan and Anne Koscielny. He received a master's degree at the University of Maryland while studying under Raymond Hanson, and his doctorate in piano performance from Maryland. He holds National Certification in Piano through the Music Teacher's National Association, is endorsed as an Ohio Artist on Tour through the Ohio Arts Council, and was recently recognized as an Excellence in Education honoree by the Ohio Senate. In 2015 he was selected for the Fulbright Specialist Roster by the U.S. Department of State. Over the next five years, the Fulbright Specialist program will sponsor him to perform and teach at universities internationally.

The Fulbright Program

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program and is designed to build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of

other countries. The Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations, and foundations around the world also provide direct and indirect support to the Program, which operates in over 160 countries worldwide.

Since its establishment in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program has given more than 390,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds and fields the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Fulbrighters address critical global challenges in all disciplines, while building relationships, knowledge, and leadership in support of the long-term interests of the United States. Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in many fields, including 59 who have been awarded the Nobel Prize, 84 who have received Pulitzer Prizes, and 37 who have served as a head of state or government.

For further information about the Fulbright Program or the U.S. Department of State, please visit <http://eca.state.gov/fulbright> or contact the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Press Office by telephone 202-632-6452 or e-mail ECA-Press@state.gov.

** The news release is a combination of information written by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Cedarville University's public relations department.