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PIANIST STEVEN SPOONER RELEASES “DEDICATIONS,” A 16-CD BOX OF WORKS IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF HOROWITZ, RICHTER, GILELS, & CLIBURN

*Collaborations Include Brahms Quintet with Borromeo Quartet &
Schubert “Winterreise” with Baritone Chris Thompson*
*Highlights: Liszt B Minor Sonata in Two Versions on a Modern Piano & 1886 Bechstein
Rarely Heard Works by Georgian Composer/Pianist Nodar Gabunia (1978)
Contemporary Works by Deutsche Grammophon Composer Mohammed Fairouz
DVD of A Live Steven Spooner Recital
Audio Liner Notes For Entire Set*

August 22, 2016, New York City—The powerful, prolific, and nuanced American pianist Steven Spooner has released a 16-volume cd box entitled “Dedications,” featuring a wide panoply of Romantic, Classical, Early 20th century, and contemporary works set to disc in the spirit of an homage to the great pianists of the Russian School.

Fired by an intense veneration of this tradition, Mr. Spooner decided early in life to focus his piano playing on the memory and recreation of this art of performance, which had its origins in the iconoclastic pianism of the great Russian virtuoso Anton Rubinstein. This quest has now culminated in a marathon undertaking of recordings made over just a year-and-a-half dedicated to the memory of four legends: Vladimir Horowitz, known universally for his high-voltage pianism; Sviatoslav Richter, who held sway over an immense portion of the piano repertoire and whose genius was stamped on any work or instrument he touched; Emil Gilels, who was one of the first artists to bring to our shores the best of Russian pianism; and the golden-toned American from Louisiana, Van Cliburn, who made history winning first prize at the 1958 first Tchaikovsky Competition. In addition, Mr. Spooner is honoring his former teacher Nodar Gabunia, by having set to disc some of his rarely performed compositions.

For a complete list of repertoire, please see page three

Pianist **Steven Spooner** has “everything: polished technique, musical intelligence, innate sensitivity, and a personality that reaches across the keyboard,” writes the *Savannah Morning News*. As solo recitalist, he has been engaged and often re-engaged at prestigious venues such as the Salle Cortot in Paris, the Shanghai’s Concert Hall for their Spring Festival, Budapest’s Great Hall of the Liszt Academy, New York’s Carnegie Hall, Rome’s Santa Cecilia, and Singapore’s EsplanadeTheatres. For several seasons now, Mr. Spooner has even used serendipity in his piano recitals by allowing audiences to vote on the spot for one of several programs he has prepared, this to bring to the proceedings a welcome element of spontaneity.

In Singapore's *Straits Times* critic Chang Tou Liang reviewed Spooner's most recent Singapore recital as follows: "Like the pianists of the fabled golden age, Spooner was prey to composition and transcription himself. Three of his virtuoso etudes brought down the house" In addition *Fanfare* magazine added to this praise by asserting that Spooner is "a pianist in the tradition that many believe died with the likes of Horowitz, Arrau, Bolet, Cziffra and Wild."

A prizewinner at each of the seven international piano competitions Spooner has entered, which includes the Ivory Classical Foundation Prize and the top award at both the Hilton Head International Piano Competition and the Artlivre International Piano Competition, Mr. Spooner also captured First Prize and was recipient of the Niekamp Career Grant as most outstanding pianist in French music at the Paris Conservatory.

Spooner has not neglected contemporary music His enthusiasm for new music has produced an ongoing collaboration with renowned Deutsche Grammophon composer, Mohammed Fairouz (commissioned by the ROKI Foundation) to premiere and record several of his works during the next few seasons. Mr. Spooner and his wife Jung (name) have created an internet-based performance outlet about all things piano, entitled *A Life of Music*.

In the words of the *Washington Post*, "Anything added to Steven Spooner's dazzling, blurry-handed sweeps of the entire piano would have been dizzying." But it is always Mr. Spooner's understanding of the score that captures the imagination of audiences and reviewers from Poland and Russia to Singapore to the United States. "The International Liszt Competition on Thursday afternoon was ruled by the very professional, serious, and beautiful performance of Steven Spooner from the U.S.A. His playing was thought through to the finest detail from the beginning to its perfect conclusion. His Transcendental Etudes, Wilde Jagd and Harmonies du Soir of Liszt were virtuosic and emotionally stirring. The Schubert Serenade in Liszt's transcription was both lyrical and clearly conceived." *The Breslau News*, Wroclaw, Poland.

Mr. Spooner is an active collaborator and performs with a diverse and distinguished list of musicians including, the Borromeo Quartet, Violinist Renaud Capuçon, Silk Road Ensemble Bassist Daxun Zhang, Philadelphia Orchestra Trombonist M. Dee Stewart, and Baritone Chris Thompson. To date Steven Spooner has released more than 30 recordings on the Naxos, A Life of Music, and other recording labels. He has studied at the Paris Conservatory, Moscow and Tbilisi Conservatories in the former Soviet Union, and Indiana University, Bloomington. His 2008 win of the Ivory Classics Foundation Prize enabled him to study with the legendary virtuoso Earl Wild.

Mr. Spooner has served as guest artist-in-residence at the Paris Conservatory Summer Sessions and has been appointed to the Artist Faculty of the Colburn Music Academy, Amalfi Coast Music Festival, the International Institute for Young Musicians, Musicfest Perugia, the Adam Gyorgy Castle Academy in Budapest, and the JCoM Fest in Jakarta. Increasingly in demand for his humorous, engaging, and energetic masterclasses at major music institutions all over the world such as the Paris Conservatory, Milan Conservatory, Liszt Academy of Music, and the Shanghai and Beijing Conservatories and in America at Rice, Indiana, Colburn, Oberlin, Mr. Spooner serves on the piano faculty at the University of Kansas and is the winner of the 2014 Scholarly Achievement Award given to faculty members who enhance the university's international reputation

Steven Spooner is a Steinway Artist. For further info go to info: www.stevenspooner.com.

STEVEN SPOONER – DEDICATIONS 16-CD BOX SET

1. MEMORIES AND INSPIRATIONS VOLUME I

1. *Steven introduces memories and inspirations*
2. *Steven shares his earliest musical experiences*
3. Hymn Transcriptions
4. *Amazing Grace (Live Performance)*
5. *Something About That Name*
6. *There Is a Fountain*
7. *Oh How He Loves You and Me*
8. *How Great Thou Art*
9. *Steven talks about his first piano lessons*
10. **Chopin:** Nocturne in E-Flat Major, Op. 9 No. 2
11. **Grieg:** Arietta, From Lyric Pieces, Op. 12 No. 1
12. *Steven discusses the influence of Vladimir Horowitz*
13. **Rachmaninoff:** Etude Tableau in D Major, Op. 39 No. 9
14. **Scriabin:** Prelude in G-Flat Major, Op. 16 No. 3

2. MEMORIES AND INSPIRATIONS VOLUME II

1. **Bach/Busoni:** Chorale Prelude, *Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr, BWV 639*
2. **Bach/Busoni:** Chorale Prelude, *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659*
3. *Steven shares his first experience learning the music of Liszt*
4. **Schubert/Liszt:** *Erkönig S.558/4, (Live Performance, 2011)*
5. **Lassen/Liszt:** *Löse, Himmel, meine Seele, (Live Performance, 2011)*
6. *Steven speaks of his admiration for Keith Jarrett*
7. Shenandoah
8. *Somewhere Over the Rainbow (Live Performance, 2013)*
9. *Steven talks about the art of improvisation*
10. *Amazing Grace (Studio Version)*

3. HOROWITZ VOLUME 1

1. **Bach/Busoni:** Chorale Prelude No. 3, *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659*
2. **Scarlatti:** Keyboard Sonata in A Minor, K. 149 (*On Horowitz's Piano*)
3. **Scarlatti:** Keyboard Sonata in D Minor, K. 213 (*On Horowitz's Piano*)
4. **Scarlatti:** Keyboard Sonata in E-Flat Major, K. 474 (*On Horowitz's Piano*)
5. **Scarlatti:** Keyboard Sonata in F Minor, K. 184
6. **Scriabin:** Etude in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 2 No. 1
7. **Scriabin:** Etude in D-Sharp Minor, Op. 8 No. 12
8. **Scriabin:** Prelude in G-Flat Major, Op. 16 No. 3
9. **Mozart:** Piano Sonata in C Major, K. 330
9. I. Allegro moderato
10. II. Andante cantabile
11. III. Allegretto
12. **Arensky:** Elegie in G Minor, Op. 36 No. 16
13. **Rachmaninoff:** Prelude in G-Sharp Minor, Op. 32 No. 12
14. **Rachmaninoff:** Etude in D major, Op. 39 No. 9

15. **Rachmaninoff:** Moment musical in B Minor, Op. 16 No. 3
16. **Queen/Spooner:** Concert Etude for Vladimir Horowitz (2014)

4. HOROWITZ VOLUME 2, Chopin Mazurkas

Chopin:

1. Mazurka in B-Flat Major, Op. 7 No. 1
2. Mazurka in B Minor, Op. 33 No. 4
3. Mazurka in C Major, Op. 56 No. 2
4. Mazurka in A Minor, Op. 67 No. 4
5. Mazurka in B-Flat Major, Op. 17 No. 1
6. Mazurka in E Minor, Op. 17 No. 2
7. Mazurka in A-Flat Major, Op. 17 No. 3
8. Mazurka in A Minor, Op. 17 No. 4
9. Mazurka in F Minor, Op. 7 No. 3
10. Mazurka in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 6 No. 2
11. Mazurka in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 63 No. 3
12. Mazurka in D-Flat Major, Op. 30 No. 3
13. Mazurka in A-Flat Major, Op. 50 No. 2
14. Mazurka in F Minor, Op. 63 No. 2
15. Mazurka in A-Flat Major, Op. 41 No. 4
16. Mazurka in G-Sharp Minor, Op. 33 No. 1
17. Mazurka in A Minor, Op. 7 No. 2
18. Mazurka in E Minor, Op. 41 No. 2
19. Mazurka in C Major, Op. 67 No. 3
20. Mazurka in G Minor, Op. 67 No. 2
21. Mazurka in G Minor, Op. 24 No. 1
22. Mazurka in C Major, Op. 24 No. 2
23. Mazurka in A-Flat Major, Op. 24 No. 3
24. Mazurka in B-Flat Minor, Op. 24 No. 4

5. HOROWITZ VOLUME 3

1. **Bach/Busoni:** Chorale Prelude No.5, Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr, BWV 639
2. **Schubert/Liszt:** *Soirée de Vienne* in A Major, S. 427/7
3. **Schubert/Liszt:** *Ständchen*, S. 560/7
4. **Schubert/Liszt:** *Erlkönig*, S. 558/4
5. **Liszt:** Consolation in D-Flat Major, S. 172/3
6. **Liszt:** Legend No. 2, *St François de Paule: marchant sur les flots* (*St. Francis walks on the waves*) S. 175/2
7. **Lassen/Liszt:** *Löse, Himmel, meine Seele*, S. 494i
Schumann: from *Kinderszenen*, Op. 15
8. *Von fremden Ländern und Menschen* (*Of Foreign Lands And Peoples*)
9. *Kuriose Geschichte* (*A Curious Story*)
10. *Bittendes Kind* (*Pleading Child*)
11. *Wichtige Begebenheit* (*An Important Event*)
12. *Träumerei* (*Dreaming*)
13. *Kind im Einschlummern* (*Child Falling Asleep*)
14. *Der Dichter spricht* (*The Poet Speaks*)
15. **Chopin:** Polonaise in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 26 No. 1
16. **Chopin:** Waltz in A-Flat Major, Op. 69 No. 1

17. **Chopin:** Polonaise in A-Flat Major, Op. 53 (*Heroic*)

6. RICHTER VOLUME 1

Chris Thompson, Baritone

Schubert: *Winterreise*, D. 911

1. *Gute Nacht*
2. *Die Wetterfahne*
3. *Gefrorne Tränen*
4. *Erstarrung*
5. *Der Lindenbaum*
6. *Wasserflut*
7. *Auf dem Flusse*
8. *Rückblick*
9. *Irrlicht*
10. *Rast*
11. *Frühlingstraum*
12. *Einsamkeit*
13. *Die Post*
14. *Der greise Kopf*
15. *Die Krähe*
16. *Letzte Hoffnung*
17. *Im Dorfe*
18. *Der stürmische Morgen*
19. *Täuschung*
20. *Der Wegweiser*
21. *Das Wirtshaus*
22. *Mut!*
23. *Die Nebensonnen*
24. *Der Leiermann*

7. RICHTER VOLUME 2

Borromeo String Quartet:

Nicholas Kitchen, *Violin*

Kristopher Tong, *Violin*

Mai Motobuchi, *Viola*

Yeesun Kim, *Cello*

Brahms: Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34

1. I. Allegro non troppo
2. II. Andante, un poco adagio
3. III. Scherzo: Allegro
4. IV. Finale: Poco sostenuto – Allegro non troppo – Presto, non troppo
5. *A discussion with the Borromeo Quartet and Steven Spooner*

8. RICHTER VOLUME 3, Hadyn Keyboard Sonatas

Haydn: Keyboard Sonata in A-Flat Major, Hob. XVI/46

1. I. Allegro moderato

2. II. Adagio
3. III. Finale. Presto
Haydn: Keyboard Sonata in C-Sharp Minor, Hob. XVI/36
4. I. Moderato
5. II. Scherzando. Allegro con brio
6. III. Menuetto
Haydn: Keyboard Sonata in C Major, Hob. XVI/48
7. I. Andante con espressione
8. II. Rondo. Presto
Haydn: Keyboard Sonata in E-Flat Major, Hob. XVI/49
9. I. Allegro
10. II. Adagio e cantabile
11. III. Tempo di Menuet

9. RICHTER VOLUME 4

Gabunia: 5 Pieces From A Pupil's Diary (1978)

1. Morning
2. On the Way to School
3. School Bell
4. Pop
5. Dream
6. **Schnittke:** Concerto for Piano and Strings (1979)
Gabunia: Piano Sonata No. 2, "The Last Resistance" (2011)
Dedicated to Steven Spooner and Jacqueline Rose
7. I. The Last Resistance
8. II. Retro Recollections on 21st and 8th
9. III. Freud Goes to Abu Ghraib
10. IV. Men and Women in Dark Times

10. RICHTER VOLUME 5

Debussy: Preludes, Book I

1. *Danseuses de Delphes*
2. *Voiles*
3. *Le vent dans la plaine*
4. *Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir*
5. *Les collines d'Anacapri*
6. *Des pas sur la neige*
7. *Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest*
8. *La fille aux cheveux de lin*
9. *La sérénade interrompue*
10. *La Cathédrale engloutie*
11. *La danse de Puck*
12. *Minstrels*
Debussy: Preludes, Book I, *played on an 1886 Bechstein Concert Grand*
13. *Danseuses de Delphes*
14. *Voiles*
15. *Le vent dans la plaine*
16. *Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir*
17. *Les collines d'Anacapri*

18. *Des pas sur la neige*
19. *Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest*
20. *La sérénade interrompue*
21. *La Cathédrale engloutie*
22. *La danse de Puck*

11. RICHTER VOLUME 6

Liszt: Sonata in B Minor, S. 178

1. Lento assai - Allegro energico - Grandioso - Recitativo
2. Andante sostenuto - Quasi adagio
3. Allegro energico
4. Allegro energico- Stretta quasi presto - Presto - Prestissimo - Andante sostenuto - Allegro moderato - Lento assai
5. **Liszt:** Deuxième année: Italie, Il Penseroso, S.161/2
Liszt: Sonata in B Minor, S. 178, *played on an 1886 Bechstein Concert Grand*
6. Lento assai - Allegro energico - Grandioso - Recitativo
7. Andante sostenuto - Quasi adagio
8. Allegro energico
9. Allegro energico- Stretta quasi presto - Presto - Prestissimo - Andante sostenuto - Allegro moderato - Lento assai

12. RICHTER VOLUME 7, Schubert Piano Works

Schubert: Piano Sonata in B-Flat Major, D. 960

1. I. Molto moderato
2. II. Andante sostenuto
3. III. [Scherzo] Allegro vivace con delicatezza
4. IV. Allegro ma non troppo
5. **Schubert:** Hungarian Melody, D. 817
6. **Schubert:** Allegretto in C Minor, D. 915
7. **Schubert:** From German Dances, D. 783

13. RICHTER VOLUME 8, Richter Sampler

1. **Haydn:** Keyboard Sonata in G Major, Hob. XVI/40, I
2. **Schumann:** Papillons Op. 2
3. **Chopin:** Etude in C Major, Op 10 No. 1
4. **Chopin:** Polonaise-Fantasie in A-Flat Major, Op 61
5. **Liszt:** *Aux cyprès de la Villa d'Este I*, from *Années de Pèlerinage III*, S.163
Liszt: From Transcendental Etudes, S. 139
6. No 1, *Preludio*
7. No 3, *Paysage*
8. No 8, *Wilde Jagd*
9. No 11, *Harmonies du Soir*
10. **Rachmaninoff:** Prelude in G-Sharp Minor, Op. 32 No. 12
11. **Prokofiev:** Sonata No 6, Op. 82, I
12. **Bartok:** from 15 Hungarian Peasant Songs
13. **Bartok:** Burlesque No. 1, Quarrel

14. GILELS

Dedicated to Emil Gilels

1. **Bach/Siloti:** Prelude in B Minor
2. **Wagner/Liszt:** *Phantasiestück über Motive aus 'Rienzi', S. 439*
Grieg: From Lyric Pieces
3. Arietta, Op. 12 No. 1
4. Butterfly, Op. 43 No. 1
5. Nocturne, Op. 54 No. 4
6. Grandmother's Minuet, Op. 68 No. 2
7. At Your Feet, Op. 68 No. 3
8. At the Cradle, Op. 68 No. 5
9. Remembrances, Op. 71 No. 7
Brahms: 7 Fantasies, Op. 116
10. Capriccio. Presto energico
11. Intermezzo. Andante
12. Capriccio. Allegro passionato
13. Intermezzo. Adagio
14. Intermezzo. Andante con grazia ed intimissimo sentimento
15. Intermezzo. Andantino teneramente
16. Capriccio. Allegro agitato
17. **Brahms:** Intermezzo in E-Flat Major, Op. 117 No. 1
18. **Brahms:** Intermezzo in B-Flat Minor, Op. 117 No. 2

15. CLIBURN, Piano Favorites

Dedicated to Van Cliburn

1. **Key/Rachmaninoff:** *Star Spangled Banner*
2. **Beethoven:** Sonata in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 27 No. 1, I (*Moonlight*)
3. **Rachmaninoff:** Prelude in C-Sharp, Op. 3 No. 2
4. **Schumann:** Romanze in F-Sharp Major, Op. 28 No. 2
5. **Schumann:** *Traumerei* from *Kinderszenen*, Op. 15
6. **Chopin:** Nocturne in E-Flat Major, Op. 9 No. 2
7. **Chopin:** Polonaise in A-Flat Major, Op. 53 (*Heroic*)
8. **Brahms:** Waltz in A-Flat Major, Op. 39 No. 15
9. **Brahms:** Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118 No. 2
10. **MacDowell:** *To a Wild Rose*, Op. 51 No. 1
11. **Scriabin:** Etude in D-Sharp Minor, Op. 8 No. 12
12. **Schumann/Liszt:** *Widmung*, S. 566
13. **Debussy:** from *Suite Bergamasque*, *Clair de Lune*
14. **Debussy:** *La fille aux cheveux de lin*

16. DVD: Swarthout Recital (August 2015)

Debussy: Preludes, Book I (1910) (dedicated to Sviatoslav Richter)

1. *Danseuses de Delphes*
2. *Voiles*
3. *Le vent dans la plaine*
4. *Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir*
5. *Les collines d'Anacapri*
6. *Des pas sur la neige*

7. *Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest*
8. *La fille aux cheveux de lin*
9. *La sérénade interrompue*
10. *La Cathédrale engloutie*
11. *La danse de Puck*
12. *Minstrels*

INTERMISSION

13. **Schubert/Liszt**, Ständchen (dedicated to Jorge Bolet)
14. **Scriabin**, Etudes Op. 2 No. 1 and Op. 8 No. 12 (dedicated to Vladimir Horowitz)
15. **Spooner**, Three Concert Etudes for Argerich, Jarrett, and Horowitz
16. *Encore*, Improv on Amazing Grace

COMPOSERS INCLUDED:

Scarlatti, Bach/Busoni, Bach/Siloti, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schubert/Liszt, Schumann, Schumann/Liszt, Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, Grieg, MacDowell, Arensky, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, Key/Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Bartók, Prokofiev, Horowitz, Schnittke, Gabunia, Spooner, Fairouz