THE BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Dr. Stephen W. Sachs, Chair
presents

Guest Piano Recital
Dr. Stephen Wilber

Friday, March 3, 2017 • 7:30 p.m.
Belhaven University • Concert Hall
There will be a reception after the program. Please come and greet the performer.  
Please refrain from the use of all flash and still photography during the concert. 
Please turn off all pagers and cell phones.

PROGRAM

Andante Favori in F Major, WoO 57  
Ludwig van Beethoven • 1770-1827

French Suite VI  
I. Allemande  
Johann Sebastian Bach • 1685-1750
II. Courante  
III. Sarabande
IV. Gavotte  
V. Polonaise
VI. Bourrée
VII. Menuet
VIII. Gigue

Variations on a Theme by Schumann – Theme and 16 Variations  
Johannes Brahms • 1833-1897

Widmung  
Robert Schumann/trans. by Franz Liszt • 1811-1886

Après une Lecture de Dante – Fantasia quasi Sonata  
Dr. Stephen Wilber, Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Après une Lecture de Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata  

is a piano sonata in one movement, completed by Hungarian composer Franz Liszt in 1849. It was first published in 1856 as part of the second volume of his Annees de pelerinage (Years of Pilgrimage). This work of program music was inspired by the reading of Dante Alighieri’s most famous epic poem, the Divine Comedy. This piece is divided into two main subjects. The first is a chromatic theme in D minor, typifies the wailing of souls in Hell. D minor is a common key for music relating to death, as evidenced by Liszt’s Totentanz and the statue scene of Wolfgang Mozart’s Don Giovanni. The first theme also heavily uses the augmented 4th/diminished 5th Tritone; this interval was known as the Devil’s interval (or devil in music) and further reinforces the hellish imagery. The second theme is a beatific chorale in F-sharp major, derived from the first, which represents the joy of those in Heaven. The key is also symbolic here, being the signature for other uplifting works of Liszt’s, including Benediction of God in Solitude (part of Harmonies poetiques et religieuses) and Les Jeux d’eaux à la Villa d’Este (Annees de pelerinage Vol. 3, No. 4). The secondary theme may also represent Beatrice, as it is interspersed within chromatic areas, similar to the character’s appearances in hell. The piece ends with a rapid chromatic octave section that when played at speed seems to split into three distinct themes, reflecting the three heads of Satan in Inferno (Dante).

- Notes taken from Wikipedia.com

BIO

Pianist Stephen Wilber was awarded Third prize nationally in the solo professional division of the American Prize in Piano Performance Competition 2013. Dr. Wilber has been hailed or the “freshness and refinement” of his playing and for his “force, imagination, feelings, and lyricism” (Arad, Romania).
A recent showcase recital for the Embassy Concerts in Washington, DC, resulted in the following review: “It was a thrilling experience to hear Stephen Wilber in recital... His thoroughly engaging artistry is dynamic, passionate and absorbing... He has a superb articulation and pianistic touch that lends much coloring to his playing. His communication with the audience is truly enchanting”.

His debut recording, Overture, has been praised for its “purity or style, deeply internalized concepts and sense of drama”. An enthusiastic review of a recital in Tallinn, Estonia, read: “BRAVO to American pianist Stephen Wilber for a performance of Beethoven sonatas, Schumann and Chopin that was inspirational, full of poetry and flexibility and psychologically dynamic... an amazing sense of sound”. A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Dr. Wilber also studied at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He holds a Master’s degree from the Peabody Institute and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Maryland. Private teachers have included Larissa Dedova, Gregory Sioles, Robert Weirich, Frances Walker, Claude Frank, Ruth Laredo, Miles Mauney and Charles Beno. On a personal notes, Dr. Wilber had the pleasure and benefit of having the great pianist Alicia de Larrocha as a personal friend and mentor.

Dr. Wilber currently teaches at Lee University and lives in Chattanooga TN with his wife Mary-Frances who is a soprano.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MISSION STATEMENT

The Music Department seeks to produce transformational leaders in the musical arts who will have profound influence in homes, churches, private studios, educational institutions, and on the concert stage. While developing the God-bestowed musical talents of music majors, minors, and elective students, we seek to provide an integrative understanding of the musical arts from a Christian world and life view in order to equip students to influence the world of ideas. The music major degree program is designed to prepare students for graduate study while equipping them for vocational roles in performance, church music, and education. The Belhaven University Music Department exists to multiply Christian leaders who demonstrate unquestionable excellence in the musical arts and apply timeless truths in every aspect of their artistic discipline.

The Music Department would like to thank our many community partners for their support of Christian Arts Education at Belhaven University through their advertising in “Arts Ablaze 2016-2017.” It is through these and other wonderful relationships in the greater Jackson community that makes many of our concerts possible at Belhaven. We praise God for our friends and are truly thankful for their generosity. Please mention The Arts at Belhaven University when you visit our community partners.

For a complete listing of Music Department scheduled fall semester programs, please visit our website at http://www.belhaven.edu/music/recitals.htm. A complete listing of major Belhaven University arts events may be found at http://www.belhaven.edu/arts/schedule.htm.

Thank you to those working behind the scenes to make today’s program a success: music faculty supervisor, Dr. Stephen Sachs; student workers - Lighting, Mariah Taylor; Sound, Jordan Locke; Videographer, Rachael McCartney; Photographer, Katherine Civello; House manager, Seth Shelton; Stage manager, Deborah Kim; Usher, Miracle Gee; Reception Hosts, Sarah Warren & Charity Ross.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 4, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Friday, March 24, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Saturday, March 25, 3pm, Concert Hall
Tuesday, March 28, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Charity Ross Junior Piano Recital
Strings & Orchestra Concert
All-State Strings Concert
Evening of Diamonds II: Shellie Brown, Violin
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Stephen Sachs, dean of fine arts, music chair, pianist • Dr. Paxton Girtmon, director of bands, woodwind specialist • Dr. Andrew Sauerwein, composer, theorist • Song Xie, violinst, director of string ensembles • Adam Almeter, low brass adjunct • Nancy Bateman, cello adjunct • Dennis Bonds, jazz guitar adjunct • Richard Brown, string bass adjunct • Sybil Cheesman, flute adjunct • Carol Durham, organ adjunct • Sarah Elias, piano and music theory adjunct • Doug Eltzroth, worship arts adjunct • Dr. Rebecca Geihsler, vocal and music history specialty instructor • Kenneth Graves, clarinet adjunct • Christina Hrivnak, vocal adjunct • Richard Hudson, french horn adjunct • Margaret Ingram, jazz piano adjunct • Amanda Mangrum, harp adjunct • Randy Mapes, double reed adjunct • Dr. Tanja Miric, classical guitar adjunct • Christopher Phillips, vocal/choral & worship arts specialty instructor, director of choral ensembles & Singing Christmas Tree • Dr. Owen Rockwell, percussion specialty instructor, director of percussion ensembles • Carolyn Sachs, piano adjunct • Elizabeth Taylor, viola adjunct • Lloyd Turner, trumpet adjunct • Sarah Anne Waters, vocal adjunct • Grace Anna Lane, administrative assistant

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