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Guest Artist Recital: Stephen Hough, piano

Stephen Hough

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THE
Rachel S. Thaler
Concert Pianist Series

STEPHEN
HOUGH



Sunday, February 8, 2004

3:00 p.m.

Ford Hall

*James J. Whalen
Center for Music*

Ithaca College

ITHACA

STEPHEN HOUGH has emerged as a unique presence on the international concert scene. His highly acclaimed performances of both standard repertoire and unusual works by pianist-composers of the late 19th century combine the imagination and pianistic color of the past with the scholarship of the present, illuminating the very essence of the music. In recognition of his achievements and his contributions to classical music, Hough was awarded a 2001 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

Since winning first prize in the Naumburg International Piano Competition in 1983, Hough has appeared with most of the major American orchestras and numerous European orchestras under conductors including Claudio Abbado, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Charles Dutoit, Valery Gergiev, James Levine, Sir Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Yuri Temirkanov, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Osmo Vanska. Hough regularly performs in the foremost halls and series all over the world and has been a frequent guest at many international festivals, including Aspen, Ravinia, Tanglewood, Blossom, Mostly Mozart, Edinburgh, Salzburg, and the Proms, where he has appeared over a dozen times.

Hough has made over 30 recordings, garnering such international prizes as the Diapason d'Or, the Deutscher Schallplattenpreis, and the *Classic CD* and *Gramophone* awards. His recordings of concertos by Xaver Scharwenka and Emil von Sauer won *Gramophone* magazine's 1996 awards for both concerto record of the year and record of the year. In 2002 *Gramophone* gave Hough his second record of the year award for *Saint-Saëns: The Complete Works for Piano and Orchestra*. Additional recordings—Mendelssohn's complete works for piano and orchestra, Lowell Liebermann's two piano concertos, Federico Mompou's solo piano music (a Diapason d'Or and *Gramophone* award winner), and *New York Variations* (chosen as the best classical CD of 1998 by *Time* magazine)—have further reinforced Hough's status as an artist of distinction and individuality. His latest releases are solo recital discs of works by Schubert, Liszt, Brahms, and various English composers.

Born in Cheshire, England, in 1961, Stephen Hough divides his time between homes in London and New York City. During his residency at Ithaca College, Hough also gave a piano master class in the Hockett Family Recital Hall.

STEPHEN HOUGH

PIANIST

Années de pèlerinage, première année: Suisse

Franz Liszt
(1811-86)

Intermission

Sonata in F-sharp Minor for Piano, op. 81

Johann Nepomuk Hummel
(1778-1837)

Impromptu in F-sharp Minor, op. 36

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-49)

Impromptu in G-flat Major, op. 51

Ballade in A-flat Major, op. 47

Ballade in F Minor, op. 52

Patrons are requested to silence signal watches, pagers, and cell phones.
The use of camera and recording equipment is prohibited by law.

Stephen Hough's recordings are available on the Hyperion, Chandos, and Virgin labels.
He appears by arrangement with Cramer/Marder Artists.

The Rachel S. Thaler Concert Pianist Series

was established at Ithaca College in 1991 in honor of Rachel Thaler.

A native Ithacan and talented pianist, Rachel Thaler attended the Ithaca public schools and graduated from Ithaca High School. She was awarded a scholarship to attend the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, but her father's unexpected death shortly before classes began required her to change her plan and step in to manage the family's furniture business instead.

Although she was never able to formally pursue her studies at the conservatory, Mrs. Thaler saw to it that her two sons and six grandchildren all had the opportunity to play musical instruments. Her love of music has remained strong, as has her attachment to Ithaca College. Both she and her husband, Louis K. Thaler, were devoted supporters of the Friends of Ithaca College and members of the Tower Club for many years.

In addition to her musical skill, Rachel Thaler is a talented artist. She works with needle painting, an ancient Chinese technique that uses pieces of colored thread rather than paint to create the image. Her work has been exhibited at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and in Rochester and Syracuse, and her technique has been featured in a video produced by the New York State Council on the Arts.

In endowing the concert series, Manley H. Thaler said, "My mother has always had an affinity for music. We wanted to do something in her honor during her lifetime. Because of her interest in Ithaca College and its outstanding music program, it was clear that the endowment fund should be created here."

The legacy of the Thalers' love of music lives on today through the Rachel S. Thaler Concert Pianist Series and the Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series, which was established in 2002. The Thaler/Howell Foundation, through the efforts of Manley H. Thaler, endowed both series to recognize and honor Rachel and Louis Thaler and to ensure that outstanding pianists and violinists would always perform for the Ithaca College community and the residents of the surrounding area.