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Recital: Christian Tetzlaff, violin

Christian Tetzlaff

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The Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series

Christian Tetzlaff



PHOTO: ALEXANDRA VOSDING

Sunday, April 2, 2006

8:15 p.m.

Ford Hall

James J. Whalen

Center for Music

Ithaca College

ITHACA

Christian Tetzlaff is internationally recognized as one of the most important violinists of his generation. His artistry stems from an unassailable musical integrity and disciplined technique that allows him to brilliantly realize his expressive intentions. He is consistently praised for his technical mastery, his luminous tone, and his sensitivity to subtleties of color, line, and phrasing.

From the outset of his career, Tetzlaff, now 39, has performed and recorded a broad spectrum of the repertoire, ranging from Bach's unaccompanied sonatas and partitas to 19th-century masterworks by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, and Brahms; from 20th-century concertos by Bartók, Berg, and Stravinsky to world premieres of contemporary works. Since he was 22, when his performances of the Schoenberg Violin Concerto brought him international attention, Tetzlaff has been commended for playing less frequently heard works, among them the Ligeti concerto and the rarely performed Janáček and Schumann concertos. Nonetheless, he considers Mozart and Brahms to be just as challenging to his musical development. He is also dedicated to chamber music and often collaborates with such distinguished artists as Leif Ove Andsnes, Lars Vogt, Sabine Meyer, Heinrich Schiff, and Tabea Zimmerman.

Born in Hamburg in 1966, Christian Tetzlaff grew up playing chamber music with his three siblings, all of whom are professional musicians today. He frequently performs with his sister Tanja, a cellist. Tetzlaff began playing the violin and piano at age 6 but did not start intensively studying the violin until he was 14, after making his concert debut with the Beethoven Violin Concerto. He attributes his musical outlook to Uwe-Martin Haiberg, his teacher at the Lübeck Musikhochschule, who stressed interpretation and technique equally. During the 1985–86 academic year, Tetzlaff came to the United States to work with Walter Levin at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Tetzlaff has been in demand as a soloist with the world's leading ensembles and conductors and has established close artistic partnerships that are renewed season after season. In North America he has appeared with the orchestras of Chicago, Cleveland, Boston, Minnesota, New York, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Toronto, among many others. He has also performed with major European ensembles, including the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra National de Lyon, Orchestre de Paris, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw, and Vienna Philharmonic.

Tetzlaff's highly regarded recordings for Virgin Classics reflect the breadth of his musical interests. They include concertos by composers ranging from Haydn to Bartók; 20th-century sonatas by Janáček, Debussy, Ravel, and Nielsen with pianist Leif Ove Andsnes; Mozart's complete works for violin and orchestra; and Jean Sibelius's complete works for violin and orchestra with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Thomas Dausgaard, which won the prestigious Diapason d'Or. Tetzlaff's most recent releases include Brahms's sonatas for piano and violin with Lars Vogt on EMI Classics, a Grammy-nominated album of Bartók's Violin Sonatas nos. 1 and 2 (with Leif Ove Andsnes) and Bartók's Sonata for Solo Violin on Virgin Classics, and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the Russian National Orchestra and Kent Nagano for PentaTone Classics. His next album, a new recording of Bach's sonatas and partitas for solo violin for Musical Heritage, is expected this spring.

Named instrumentalist of the year by *Musical America* in 2005, Christian Tetzlaff performs on a violin made by Peter Greiner and modeled after a Guarneri del Gesù. He lives near Frankfurt with his wife, a clarinetist with the Frankfurt Opera, and their three children.

Christian Tetzlaff
VIOLIN

Partita no. 2 in D Minor for Solo Violin, BWV 1004 (1720)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Allemanda
Corrente
Sarabanda
Giga
Ciaccona

Sonata no. 3 in C Major for Solo Violin, BWV 1005 (1720)

Adagio
Fuga
Largo
Allegro assai

INTERRUPTION

Sonata for Solo Violin (1944)

Tempo di ciaconna
Fuga
Melodia
Presto

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)

Master Class

Monday, April 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Hockett Family Recital Hall, Whalen Center for Music

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

Christian Tetzlaff appears by arrangement with Cramer/Marder Artists.
His recordings are available on the Virgin Classics/EMI recording labels.

The Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series was established at Ithaca College by the Thaler/Howell Foundation in memory of Louis Thaler and to honor his lifelong love of the violin. The impetus for this gift was provided by Louis Thaler's son Manley and his immediate family.

Louis Thaler (1903–79) had a long and successful career as an Ithaca attorney and was the founder and senior partner of the Thaler and Thaler law firm. He was the city of Ithaca attorney from 1940 to 1941 and president of the Tompkins County Bar Association from 1944 to 1945. He also served as a special county judge and surrogate judge. Actively involved in civic affairs throughout his career, Thaler was a member of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, the Ithaca Rotary Club, and the Elks Club. He was also an amateur violinist.

In 1927 Louis Thaler married Rachel Shulman, a native Ithacan who was awarded a scholarship to study piano at the Ithaca Conservatory of Music. Both were devoted supporters of the Friends of Ithaca College. Rachel Thaler died in 2004, at the age of 97.

The legacy of the Thalers' love of music lives on today through the Rachel S. Thaler Concert Pianist Series, established in 1991, and the Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series, created 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 violinists and pianists would always perform for the Ithaca College community and the residents of the surrounding area.