

THE AMERICAN PIANO

Anthony de Mare and Steven Mayer, piano
Joseph Horowitz, Artistic Director

Steven Mayer - Biography

STEVEN MAYER, piano

Credited with "piano playing at its most awesome" (*The New York Times*), pianist Steven Mayer has been featured in 2005 in numerous leading publications as a result of his recent acclaimed releases on the Naxos label. Mr. Mayer's recent engagements include four appearances at the 2004 Gilmore International Piano Festival in Kalamazoo, Michigan, appearances with the New York Chamber Symphony and Gerard Schwarz in Beethoven's Concerto No. 4, performances with the Leipzig Gewandhaus and Emmanuel Krivine in Liszt's Concerto in Eb, appearances with Leonard Slatkin and the Minnesota Orchestra in Gottschalk's Grand Tarantelle and with co-soloist John Browning in Mozart's Concerto K.365 under Sir Neville Mariner, performances with the San Francisco Symphony under Edo de Waart and Herbert Blomstedt in Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini and the Reger Piano Concerto, a performance of Beethoven's Concerto No. 3 with the Rotterdam Philharmonic and James Conlon, performances of Mozart Concertos K.595, K.414 and K.482 with the St. Louis and Baltimore Symphonies under conductors Catherine Comet and David Atherton, appearances with the Amsterdam Philharmonic under Ken-Ichiro Kobayashi in Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 3, a performance with the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra and Antonio Ros-Marba in Haydn's Concerto in G, performances of Mozart's Concerto K.595 with Hugh Wolff conducting the Atlanta Symphony, appearances with the Dallas Symphony under Walter Hendl in Ravel's Concerto in G, performances with the Boston Pops and Keith Lockhart in Liszt's Totentanz and an appearance with the Prague Symphony under Jiri Belohlavek in Dvorak's Piano Concerto on the Carnegie Hall International Orchestra Series.

Winner of the 1992 Grand Prix du Disque Liszt for his ASV world premiere recording of Liszt's *Concerto Opus Posthumous* and *De Profundis* with the London Symphony under Tamas Vasary, Steven Mayer gave the world premiere of Liszt's *De Profundis* with the Hague Philharmonic and Jacek Kaspszic in the Hague. Mr. Mayer also performed the European premiere of Liszt's Concerto Opus Posthumous as well as Liszt's Concerto in Eb with the Hague Philharmonic under Hans Vonk at the Interlakner and Visp festivals in Switzerland and at La Chaise Dieu in France. Steven Mayer's album *Liszt vs. Thalberg*, also for ASV Records, was featured as Recording of the Month in Classical CD Magazine.

In 2002 Steven Mayer began an association with Naxos Ltd. Releases for this label include Charles Ives' *Concord Sonata* and *Celestial Railroad*, and Art Tatum *Improvisations*. Future releases will include Liszt's *Opera Fantasies* as well as music of Heinrich and Gottschalk, among others.

Since his prize winning performance of Leon Kirchner's Piano Concerto No. 2 with Dennis Russell Davies and the American Composer's Orchestra at The Third Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition, Mr. Mayer has brought his unique repertoire of classic jazz legends Art Tatum, Fats Waller and Jelly Roll Morton to festivals worldwide including Dick Hyman's Jazz in July at the 92nd Street Y, BAM's Gospel to Gershwin with Gunther Schuller, England's Greenwich Festival and the Ambassador Series in Pasadena. He has recorded Art Tatum for ASV, as well as for Naxos. Mr. Mayer appeared in the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's *American Roots* Piano Marathon at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in January 2003. Beginning in 2004-2005, Steven Mayer will tour nationally with the scholar/writer Joseph Horowitz and the pianist Anthony de Mare as The American Piano, a flexibly constituted presentation including lectures, workshops, and master classes.

Steven Mayer premiered Kaikhosru Sorabji's The Perfumed Garden at Columbia's Miller Theater and has made regular appearances at chamber festivals including Bargemusic, Banff, the Bay Chamber Festival in Maine, Mainly Mozart in San Diego, the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, Leonard Slatkin's Minnesota Sommerfest and the Moab Festival in Utah. Mr. Mayer has served as Visiting Lecturer in Piano at UCLA and as juror at the International Flipse Concours in Rotterdam.