

NEIL RUTMAN

The Washington Post has written of Neil Rutman that his playing "met the highest standards and his spotless articulation gave the whole program unusual polish and virtuoso marks" and the New York Times stated that "he won the audience over for himself with exquisite performances- both commanding and full of character."

As a young man Neil Rutman distinguished himself as a top prize winner in several International Competitions including the Busoni, Kapell, Casadesus, Joanna Hodges, Concert Artist Guild, and International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition. He has appeared in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Tokyo's Bunka Kaikan and the Schola Cantorum in Paris with concert tours of the United Kingdom, Europe, New Zealand, Japan, and the Persian Gulf and a 2015 invitation to give the closing recital at the World Piano Conference in Novi Sad, Serbia. Recordings include two Mozart Piano Concerti, an all Poulenc CD, with Emmy Award winning actor Tony Randall providing the narration in 'The Story of Babar the Little Elephant', and his recent all Chopin release on the Pro Musica label. Mr. Rutman has authored articles for the *Piano Quarterly*, *The Piano Teacher*, an interview with Aiko Onishi in *Clavier*, and is a contributing author to the book 'Piano Masterpieces' published by Oxford University Press. His best-selling book '*Stories, Images, and Magic from the Piano Literature*' was published in late 2015 and listed as #3 Hot New Release on Amazon.

A native of California and graduate of the Eastman School and Peabody Conservatory, Neil Rutman is Artist-in-Residence at the University of Central Arkansas. Since 2005 his students have won top prizes in the East West Artist Auditions in New York City, the Clara Wells Competition, the Memphis Beethoven Club, and the Tulsa National Rotary Competition.

A former collegiate boxer, Neil Rutman also coaches the University of Central Arkansas Boxing Team and is a Probation Officer and mentor for juvenile offenders in Faulkner County. Last year Neil was awarded the Barack Obama Drum Major Award for service to troubled youth in the county. For more information about Mr. Rutman view his DVD's on You Tube or visit www.neilrutman.net.

PROGRAM

RONDO ALLA INGHARESE LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
QUASI UN CAPRICCIO, Op.129
(Rondo in Hungarian Style)

SONATA in B flat major, D 960 FRANZ SCHUBERT
Molto moderato
Andante Sostenuto
Scherzo: allegro vivace con delicatezza
Allegro, ma non troppo

INTERMISION

MÉLANCOLIE FRANCIS POULENC

"THE STORY OF BABAR
THE LITTLE ELEPHANT"
Narrated from the keyboard by the Artist

LA VALSE MAURICE RAVEL

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Please join us in the lobby for a "meet the artist" reception.