

LEON FLEISHER

“Fleisher’s performance was a marvel of grace and perception. Runs were executed flawlessly and ornaments were touched in with a subtle swagger.”

-The Washington Post



NOTES:

His musicianship is the stuff of legend, and his personal story—losing the use of his right hand in the prime of his life—is as heartbreaking as it is life affirming. "His comeback," wrote Holly Brubach in *The New York Times* in 2007, "has catapulted him up next to Lance Armstrong as a symbol of the indomitable human spirit and an inspiration to a broader public." For several years he has been playing with both hands, winning enormous acclaim for his aptly-titled recording, *Two Hands*. Fleisher's story is the subject of the documentary film, also entitled *Two Hands*, written and directed by Nathaniel Kahn, which aired on HBO, and was nominated for an Academy Award.

Solo recitals in the 2009-10 season include appearances throughout Asia, Goucher College, and The Sage Gateshead in the UK. Duo recitals with his wife, Katherine Jacobson Fleisher, include the Ames Town and Gown series, Vanderbilt University, Peoples' Symphony Concerts at Town Hall in New York, and Rollins University. Katherine also joined Leon at eXcentris in Montreal for a chamber music concert with cellist Matt Haimovitz. Other 2009-10 collaborations include performances with Wu Han and David Finckel in Taiwan, with Jaime Laredo, Sharon Robinson and Michael Tree at the 92nd Street Y, and with Yo Yo Ma and Pamela Frank at Weill Recital Hall. Leon and Katherine end the 2009-10 season in the UK, with a recital and chamber music with the Signum Quartet.

AVAILABILITY: Please consult.

SAMPLE PROGRAMS:

“LET’S DANCE” DUO RECITAL WITH KATHERINE JACOBSON FLEISHER:

SCHUBERT Ländler
BRAHMS Waltzes
RAVEL Valse nobles et sentimentales
Leon Fleisher, solo piano

INTERMISSION

DVORÁK Slavonic Dances
RAVEL La Valse
Leon Fleisher and Katherine Jacobson Fleisher, piano

FOUR-HANDS RECITAL WITH KATHERINE JACOBSON FLEISHER:

BRAHMS Tragic Overture, Op. 81
DEBUSSY Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun
DVORÁK Slavonic Dances
RAVEL La Valse
SCHUBERT Fantasy in f minor, D. 940, Op. 103
INTERMISSION
MOZART Concerto in F Major for two pianos, "Lodron", K.242

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY:

"The performances of works by Bach, Debussy, Scarlatti, Chopin and Schubert could not be more elegant, insightful and affecting."
-The New York Times 'Best of the Year'

"Fleisher distills the beauty of Bach like an alchemist."

- Oliver Sacks, *Wired.com*

"La Valse was more satisfying...thanks to Fleisher's marvelous rumbling effects in the low bass and his infectious rhythmic swirls, as well as the confident way the duo brought the brilliant piece to its rousing conclusion."

- San Francisco Classical Voice