FRANK SALOMON ASSOCIATES

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

Pianist and conductor Leon Fleisher accepted the 2007 Kennedy Center Honor in a star-studded gala in Washington DC televised nationally on CBS. A year of celebratory performances in 2008 commemorating Leon Fleisher's 80th birthday included a Sony BMG Masterworks release -- *The Essential Leon Fleisher* -- an anthology of highlights from his greatest recordings. In the 2008-2009 season, wherever Mr. Fleisher appeared as soloist or conductor/soloist, he was received with enthusiastic acclaim from audiences and orchestras in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, and San Francisco, ending the year with a sold-out concert with Lorin Maazel and the New York Philharmonic. Recital performances in the 2008-2009 season included Carnegie Hall in New York City, Boston and Baltimore and his first two-hand recitals in over forty years in London, Brussels, and Lucerne. Leon Fleisher continues the celebration in the first half of 2009 including performances in London, New York and Washington, DC as soloist with the London Philharmonic and Vladimir Jurowksi conducting.

"Shall We Dance"

SCHUBERT: **Laendler**
BRAHMS: **Waltzes**
RAVEL: **Valse nobles et sentimentales**

Leon Fleisher, solo piano

~ intermission ~

DVORAK: **Slavonic Dances**
RAVEL: **La Valse**

Leon Fleisher and
Katherine Jacobson Fleisher
piano 4 hands

Solo Recital

SAMPLE PROGRAM: - please consult for specific offerings

JS BACH	Sheep May Safely Graze
JS BACH	Capriccio in B-flat Major, BWV 992
JS BACH	Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue in D minor, BWV 903
JS BACH	Jesu, bleibet meine Freude (from Cantata 147, arr. Myra Hess)
JS BACH	Chaconne for Left Hand (from Partita II for Violin in D minor, BWV 1004, arr. Brahms)

~ intermission ~

SCHUBERT Sonata in B-flat Major, D.960 (1828)

LECTURE - RECITAL / FILM / MASTER CLASS

A Leon Fleisher lecture – recital be it on Bach, Schubert or other composers offers the legendary pianists insight in performance and words with a question and answer period at the end of the recital. Leon Fleisher's visit is always inspiriing and can also include master classes, sessions conducting a university orchestra and playing with a resident string quartet.

Leon Fleisher's personal story is as heartbreaking as it is life - affirming. Leon Fleisher was well on his way to conquering the music world at 16, singled out in *The New York Times* as "one of the most gifted of the younger generation of keyboard artists" and soon hailed quite simply as "the pianistic find of the century" by the great conductor Pierre Monteux. He was cruelly sidelined at the height of his powers by a rare neurological disease that lost him the use of his right hand. Undeterred, while being told by his doctors that he would never play again, he became an inspirational teacher and an inspired conductor, all the while playing-and in fact revitalizing-the left-handed repertory, determined not to be defeated. Fleisher was, as the *Times* dubbed him, "a pianist for whom never was never an option." He underwent brain surgery, grueling experimental treatments, years of trials that certainly would have discouraged any ordinary mortal. Then, against all odds and baffling medical experts, he returned. "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."

Fleisher's story is the subject of the 2006 Oscar-nominated documentary film, *Two Hands*, written and directed by Nathaniel Kahn (*My Architect*), which was met with wide acclaim, aired on HBO. This 17 – minute documentary can be a supplemental program addition to any and all of Mr. Fleisher's offerings as can the one hour Mark Kidel film "Lessons of a Master."