

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

Leon Fleisher's 80th birthday season-long celebration included appearances with the Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, and San Francisco Symphonies and sold-out New York Philharmonic performances, Lorin Maazel conducting. In Europe he gave his first two-hand performances in over forty years in sold out recitals in London, Brussels and Lucerne and in performances with the London Philharmonic with Vladamir Jurowski conducting, at Lincoln Center and in Strathmore.

The 2009-10 season begins with a return to Tanglewood to play Mozart's K. 488 with the Boston Symphony under James Levine, followed by a performance of Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse at the Piano aux Jacobins Festival where he will also be featured in a solo recital. Other 2009-10 engagements include appearances with the Toronto Symphony conducted by Peter Oundjian, the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin under Philippe Jordan and the Dusseldorf Symphony. As part of his commitment to mentoring the next generation, Leon will share his musical insights conducting and at the piano in residencies at Vanderbilt University and Rollins University, and in Carnegie Hall workshops in New York and Tokyo. Other highlights included Fleisher's first two-hand concerto recording in more than four decades- a Mozart concerto disc with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra on Sony/BMG which also released *The Essential Leon Fleisher* – an anthology of highlights from his greatest recordings. Ondine issued the first recording of the recently discovered Hindemith *Concerto for Left Hand*, premiered by Fleisher in 2004.

Leon Fleisher accepted the 2007 Kennedy Center Honor in a star-studded gala in Washington DC televised nationally on CBS. 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 and aired on HBO. This 17-minute documentary is available for use as a visual program note or a special event. There is also an excellent one-hour documentary by Mark Kidel, *Lessons of a Master*.

AVAILABILITY:

Please Consult

REPERTOIRE:

Beethoven: <i>Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major</i> , Opus 73 'Emperor'	38'
Foss: Concerto for the Left Hand	
Hindemith: <i>Klaviermusik mit Orchester</i> , Opus 29	17'
Mozart: <i>Concerto No. 12 in A Major</i> , K. 414	25'
Mozart <i>Concerto in A Major</i> , K. 488	25'
Mozart: <i>Concerto in F Major for Two Pianos</i> , K. 242	20'
Prokofiev: <i>Concerto No. 4</i> Opus 53 (left hand)	25'
Ravel: <i>Concerto in D Major</i> (left hand)	19'

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY:

When Fleisher performed with the New York Philharmonic playing Hindemith and Mozart, the *Times* wrote: "***This is a fantastic work that requires tremendous technique and stamina***" (Hindemith) and "***a carefully shaped, dynamically fluid performance, with crisply articulated ornamentation in the right hand and a playful spirit in the finale***" (Mozart).
The New York Times

"In the Mozart department, I caught the BSO's Friday and Saturday night programs. A highlight was Leon Fleisher's glowing rendition of the slow movement from the Piano Concerto No. 12, which brimmed with a kind of quiet autumnal wisdom. "

The Boston Globe

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