

Christopher O'Riley

Acclaimed for his engaging and deeply committed performances, pianist Christopher O'Riley is known to millions as the host of NPR's *From the Top*. His repertoire spans a kaleidoscopic array of music from the pre-baroque to the present-day. He performs around the world and has garnered widespread praise for his untiring efforts to reach new audiences.

Now in his fifteenth year on air, O'Riley introduces the next generation of classical music stars to almost a million listeners each week on *From the Top*. He has also hosted the Emmy Award-winning television series *From the Top* at Carnegie Hall and collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Bobby McFerrin, Midori, Béla Fleck, Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn, Sir James Galway, Michael Feinstein, and many others.

O'Riley has performed as a soloist with virtually every major American orchestra, including the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the National Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony. He led the Academy of St Martin in the Fields on a two-week tour of ten American cities, performed Henryk Górecki and Michael Daugherty's *Le Tombeau de Libera* in a series of concerts with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and toured the United Kingdom with the Moscow Philharmonic. He has worked with such renowned conductors as Alan Gilbert, David Robertson, Leonard Slatkin, Neeme Järvi, Marin Alsop, Semyon Bychkov, and Hugh Wolff, and he has performed recitals throughout North America, Europe, and Australia.

O'Riley has received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and an equally coveted four-star review from *Rolling Stone* magazine. He strives to introduce new audiences to classical music by performing piano arrangements of music by Radiohead, Elliott Smith, Pink Floyd, and Nirvana, alongside traditional classical repertoire at such diverse venues as the Istanbul Jazz Festival, Highline Ballroom (New York), the Knitting Factory (Los Angeles), and South by Southwest (Austin, Texas).

O'Riley has developed a number of projects combining music and literature and composed scores for works of Mark Z. Danielewski and Kris Saknussemm. Most recently, he collaborated with choreographer Martha Clarke on *Vers la Flamme*, a dance production based on short stories of Anton Chekhov and set to the music of Alexander Scriabin; it was performed at Lincoln Center, the American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow Festival, and the Kennedy Center. A prolific recording artist, O'Riley has recorded on the Sony Classical, Oxingale Records, RCA Red Seal, Decca, and Harmonia Mundi labels.

75TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

APRIL 30, 2017 • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



Cover Marc Chagall, *Cellist of the Village* (detail), 1970, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection

PROGRAM

3:30 • West Building, East Garden Court

Matt Haimovitz, cello
Christopher O'Riley, piano

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906 - 1975)
Sonata for Violincello and Piano in D Minor, op. 40
Allegro non troppo
Allegro
Largo
Allegro

Sergei Prokofiev (1891 - 1953)
Sonata for Violincello and Piano in C Major, op. 119
Andante grave
Moderato
Allegro ma non troppo

Intermission

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 - 1943)
Sonata in G Minor, op. 19
Lento — Allegro moderato
Allegro scherzando
Andante
Allegro mosso

The Musicians

Matt Haimovitz

Renowned as a musical pioneer, cellist Matt Haimovitz has inspired classical music lovers and countless new listeners by bringing his artistry to concert halls and clubs, outdoor festivals and intimate coffeehouses, and any place where passionate music can be heard. He brings a fresh ear to familiar repertoire, champions new music, initiates groundbreaking collaborations, and creates innovative recording projects. Besides his relentless touring schedule, Haimovitz mentors an award-winning studio of young cellists at McGill University's Schulich School of Music in Montreal.

Haimovitz made his debut in 1984, at the age of thirteen, as soloist with Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic. At seventeen, he made his first recording with James Levine and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has performed on the world's most esteemed stages with such orchestras and conductors as the Berlin Philharmonic with James Levine, the New York Philharmonic with Zubin Mehta, the English Chamber Orchestra with Daniel Barenboim, the Boston Symphony Orchestra with Leonard Slatkin, and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal with Kent Nagano. Haimovitz made his Carnegie Hall debut when he substituted for his teacher, the legendary Leonard Rose, in Schubert's String Quintet in C, alongside Isaac Stern, Shlomo Mintz, Pinchas Zukerman, and Mstislav Rostropovich.

Haimovitz's recording career encompasses more than twenty years of award-winning work. Two recent albums on the Oxingale Records label have been nominated for Juno Awards, and a third, *Meeting of the Spirits*, was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Classical Crossover Album and won a Grammy for Best Producer of the Year (Classical). *BEETHOVEN, Period*, a traversal of the Beethoven Sonatas and Variations for Piano and Cello on period instruments with Christopher O'Riley was an Editor's Choice pick at *Gramophone Magazine*.

In 2006, Haimovitz received ASCAP's Concert Music Award for his advocacy of living composers and his pioneering spirit, and in 2004, the American Music Center awarded Haimovitz the Trailblazer Award for his far-reaching contributions to American music. Born in Israel, he has been honored with the Avery Fisher Career Grant (1986), the Grand Prix du Disque (1991), and the Diapason d'Or (1991). He is the first cellist ever to receive the prestigious Premio Internazionale "Accademia Musicale Chigiana" (1999). Haimovitz studied at the Collegiate School in New York and at the Juilliard School, and in 1996, he received his bachelor of arts degree, magna cum laude, from Harvard University.

Matt Haimovitz plays on a Giovanni Grancino of Milan cello (c. 1695-1700) graciously provided to him by the company CANIMEX INC. from Drummondville (Quebec) Canada.