

# NICOLAS NAMORADZE

p i a n i s t + c o m p o s e r

## recital programs

The following programs are available for seasons 22/23 and 23/24. They can be adjusted according to the circumstances and requirements of an event—including several possible shorter versions. In addition, I can provide program notes for the recitals and present short discussions on the works, if needed, in several languages.

I also currently present an alternative event type, a new concept called “mindful recitals” that intersperses performances with guided mindfulness meditations and discussions that explore various perspectives on the listening experience. More information on these kinds of events can be found in a separate document on mindful recitals.

### **Program A**

Berg: Sonata in B minor Op. 1 (11')

Bach: Prelude and Fugue in B minor BWV 869 from the Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I (13')

Namoradze: Etudes (selections) (8')

Bach: Prelude and Fugue in F major BWV 856 from the Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I (2')

Beethoven: Sonata in F major Op. 54 (11')

— *intermission*

Beethoven: Sonata in B-flat major Op. 106, “Hammerklavier” (41') \*

This program revolves around the relationship between two musical forms, the sonata and fugue. The center of gravity is the “Hammerklavier”—arguably greatest marriage of these two genres. The palindromic first half presents various perspectives on the forms, flanked by two audacious takes on the sonata: Berg’s broodingly dramatic Op. 1 and Beethoven’s radically zany Op. 54. The fugal textures and contrapuntal passagework of my etudes pay a direct homage to their inspiration in selections from Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier, paired tonally with the adjacent works on the program.

\*An alternate to the Hammerklavier sonata is Schubert’s Sonata in B-flat major D960 (39'). With this configuration, the program culminates in another similarly monumental sonata of Viennese classicism.

### **Program B**

Bach: The Art of Fugue BWV 1080 (selections) (8')

Namoradze: Etudes (selections) (11')

Bach-Rachmaninoff: Suite from Violin Partita No. 3, BWV 1006 (8')

Rachmaninoff-Namoradze: Adagio from Symphony No. 2, Op. 27 (14')

— *intermission*

Bach: The Art of Fugue BWV 1080 (selections) (7')

Rachmaninoff: Sonata No. 1 in D minor, Op. 28 (33')

Interrelated perspectives between Bach and Rachmaninoff, as well as those of my own, take center stage in this recital. The program presents three pairings of works, the first of each being a selection by Bach. In the opening pairing, some of my etudes are juxtaposed with excerpts from Bach's *The Art of Fugue*, an important model for my approach to writing at the keyboard. The subsequent two works present more direct commentaries between composers with a pair of transcriptions. The second half returns to *The Art of Fugue*, paving the way for Rachmaninoff's monumental Sonata No. 1, a work that also looks back on archaic contrapuntal forms—in particular via its textural layering of the medieval plainchant "Dies Irae."

### **Program C: Rachmaninoff 150 (2023)**

Bach-Rachmaninoff: Suite from Violin Partita No. 3, BWV 1006 (8')

Rachmaninoff-Namoradze: Adagio from Symphony No. 2, Op. 27 (14')

Rachmaninoff: Etudes-Tableaux (selection) (10')

Namoradze: Etudes (selection) (11')

– *intermission*

Namoradze: Memories of Rachmaninoff's "Georgian Song" (4')

Rachmaninoff: Sonata No. 1 in D minor, Op. 28 (33')

This program centers on the work of Sergei Rachmaninoff, whose 150th birthday is celebrated in 2023, exploring some of my perspectives a pianist and composer on his music. The opening of the program shines a light on the composer both as a transcriber and one whose work is transcribed, exploring the question of how music intended for other instruments is brought to the piano. Various approaches on the etude genre are also presented, highlighting both influences and contrasts between Rachmaninoff's celebrated Etudes-Tableaux and my own etudes. These are followed by a work of mine that recalls strains of one of his early songs—a deconstructed theme-and-variations, in a sense—before the final work of the program, Rachmaninoff's titanic Sonata No. 1.

### **Program D: Ligeti 100 (2023)**

Bach: Well-Tempered Clavier (selections) (12')

Ligeti: Etudes (selections) (19')

Namoradze: Etudes (selections) (11')

– *intermission*

Schubert: Sonata in B-flat major D960 (39')

This program pays tribute to György Ligeti, whose 100th birthday we celebrate in 2023. The first half approaches his iconic piano etudes from both past and present: a selection of etudes is interspersed with excerpts from Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*, works central to the birth of the "keyboard study", and some of my own etudes, pieces deeply inspired by Ligeti's works in the genre. The second half presents Schubert's final sonata, a work that Ligeti studied, played, and loved—a relationship immortalized by a photo of the composer playing the piano in his Hamburg home, with this sonata on the music stand.

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