

# Guest Artist Recital

Matt Bengtson, piano

Tuesday, September 12 · 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

1715 N. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19122



# Program

Peccadilloes  
Allemande  
Fughetto  
Rag  
Pinchas (Paul) Schoenfeld (b. 1947)

The Hermit Thrush at Eve, Op. 92, No. 1      Amy Marcy Cheney Beach

Of Salamanders  
from Fireside Tales, Op. 61  
Edward MacDowell (1860-1908)

“Wilde Jagd”  
from 12 Virtuoso Etudes, Op. 46

Barcarolle No. 10 in A minor, Op. 104, No. 2      Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Nocturne No. 12 in E minor, Op. 107

Trois Danses Op. 86  
Montferrine  
Bocane  
Danse de corde  
Florent Schmitt (1870-1958)

| Intermission |

Estudios de ejecución transcendental  
(después de una lectura de Liszt)

No. 1

No. 2

No. 11

Robert Sierra (b. 1953)

Twelve New Etudes

No. 9 “Invention”

No. 10 “Vers le Silence”

William Bolcom (b. 1938)

Estudios rítmicos y sonorous

No. 3

No. 4

No. 5

No. 6

Sierra

## About the Artist

Critically acclaimed as a “musician’s pianist,” **MATTHEW BENGTON** offers a diverse repertoire, ranging from William Byrd to numerous contemporary composers with whom he actively collaborates. He has performed concerts as both soloist and collaborator in France, Germany, Italy, Poland, and Hungary, in Mexico, in Washington, DC, at Monticello, and in solo recitals at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall. He has been heard with violinist Joshua Bell on NPR’s “Performance Today” and XM Satellite Radio’s “Classical Confidential.” His recordings can be heard on the Albany, Arabesque, Griffin Renaissance, IBS Classical, Musica Omnia, Navona, and Roméo record labels.

Bengtson is lauded as one of the most persuasive advocates of the music of Scriabin and Szymanowski. On his complete Scriabin Piano Sonatas, the American Record Guide writes: “Big-boned pianism, rich tonal colors, and dazzling technique are on display here. Has Scriabin ever been played better? Only Horowitz and Richter can compare.” Fanfare magazine calls him “a Scriabinist for the 21<sup>st</sup> century ... upon whom future generations can rely for definitive interpretations.” In 2015, he toured with the complete Scriabin sonatas, and performed in the historic centennial “Scriabin in the Himalayas” festival in Ladakh, India.

Equally devoted to the music of Karol Szymanowski, he has released a 3-CD recording of the solo piano and violin/piano duo music of the great Polish composer, together with violinist Blanka Bednarz, on the Musica Omnia label, again to critical acclaim. The duo has presented numerous all-Szymanowski duo/solo recitals across the United States and in Poland, including the Karol Szymanowski Museum in Zakopane. His research on Szymanowski mazurkas won a Stefan and Wanda Wilk Prize for Research in Polish Music and is published in the Canadian music journal “Intersections.”

Bengtson enjoys a close relationship with leading Puerto Rican-born composer Roberto Sierra, of whose music he has given numerous premieres, including his formidable *12 Estudios rítmicos y sonoros*, recently recorded on the IBS Classical label in Auditorio Manuel de Falla in Granada, Spain. The disc was awarded the prestigious *Melómano de Oro* award. He performs in the “Sierra Duo” with cellist John Haines-Eitzen, with whom he recorded Sierra’s complete cello and piano music for Albany Records. The duo also enjoys playing piano trios in the “Archduke Trio” with violinist Aaron Berofsky.

Bengtson is among today's proponents of historical performance practice, preferring to perform music when possible on instruments from the era of the composer. Old performing techniques he has put into practice include improvised modulating preludes, ornamented reprises, and original cadenzas. He studied harpsichord with Webb Wiggins at Peabody, and fortepiano with Malcolm Bilson at Cornell University. His video introduction to the Viennese 5-octave fortepiano has become a YouTube favorite. He teaches in the summer program University of Michigan Early Keyboard Institute (UMEKI), and his students took the top prizes at the inaugural szfp International Fortepiano Competition in New York.

Bengtson studied piano performance as a Harvard undergraduate with Patricia Zander. He also studied contemporary repertoire with Stephen Drury, and chamber music and performance practice with Robert Levin. He earned his MM and DMA degrees in piano performance at the Peabody Conservatory, studying with Ann Schein. He also studied harpsichord with Webb Wiggins and fortepiano with Malcolm Bilson on a special fellowship at Cornell University. He has participated in many American music festivals, such as the Aspen Music Festival, and the Baroque Performance Institute (BPI) at Oberlin Conservatory. In Europe, he studied at the Internationale Sommerakademie "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, Austria, at the Centre Acanthes in Avignon, with Claude Helffer and at the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau, France, with Philippe Entremont.

Renowned as a writer and music educator, Mr. Bengtson is author of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled "Exploring Piano Literature: the Piano Sonata," available on Coursera, and is co-author of "The Alexander Scriabin Companion: History, Performance, and Lore," available from Rowman and Littlefield Press. He is Associate Professor of Piano Literature at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, where he teaches piano, fortepiano, and courses and seminars in piano repertoire, history and culture. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, at Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges, at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Music, Bowling Green State University, and the Peabody Institute.

Bengtson is a Steinway Artist.

## **Boyer College of Music and Dance**

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, five of which have received Grammy nominations.

[boyer.temple.edu](http://boyer.temple.edu)

## **The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts**

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

[arts.temple.edu](http://arts.temple.edu)

## **Temple University**

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for "The Temple College." His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—*Perseverantia Vincit*, or "Perseverance Conquers"—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

[temple.edu](http://temple.edu)

Temple University 2023-2024 Season  
Upcoming Events

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**Thursday, September 14 at 4:30 PM**

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: The Compass Quintet

TPAC Lobby

**Thursday, September 14 at 5:30 PM**

Student Recital: Nickolas Little, tenor

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Tuesday, September 19 at 12:00 PM**

CPCA Faculty Forum: Chet Pancake

TPAC Chapel

**Thursday, September 21 at 4:30 PM**

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: Emmy Rota Group

TPAC Lobby

**Friday, September 22 at 7:30 PM**

Faculty Recital: Charles Abramovic, piano

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Tuesday, September 26 at 5:30 PM**

Master's Recital: Georgia La Rue, mezzo-soprano

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Thursday, September 28 at 3:00 PM**

Dance Studies Colloquium: Ninotchka Bennahum

TPAC Chapel

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All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change without notice.

For further information or to confirm events, please call 215.204.7609

or visit [www.boyer.temple.edu](http://www.boyer.temple.edu).