



Celebrity Series of Boston

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For Immediate Release

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Presents

Rafał Blechacz, piano

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 8pm — Longy's Edward M. Pickman Hall

[Rafał Blechacz high-res photo](#) | [Rafał Blechacz video preview](#)
[Celebrity Series Press Room](#)

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present [pianist Rafał Blechacz](#) on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 8pm at Longy's Edward M. Pickman Hall, Longy School of Music of Bard College, 27 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA. The Debut Series is generously sponsored by Harriet and David Griesinger and the Longy School of Music of Bard College. This concert marks the Celebrity Series debut performance for Rafał Blechacz.

This performance is sold out.

Pianist **Rafał Blechacz** has won numerous awards, including all five first prizes at the 15th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 2005, the first pianist to achieve this feat. Professor Piotr Paleczny, one of the competition's judges, said that Blechacz "so outclassed the remaining finalists that no second prize could actually be awarded." He has also won the 2002 Arthur Rubenstein in Memoriam piano competition in Bydgoszcz, the 2003 Hamamatsu International Piano Competition, and the 2004 International Piano Competition in Morocco. On February 24, 2015, during a performance by the Warsaw Philharmonic, Blechacz received the President of the Republic of Poland's medal Cavalier's Cross of the Order of Polonia. He was also named the 2014 Gilmore Artist, only the seventh individual to receive this award.

Blechacz has performed as a solo recitalist and with symphony orchestras throughout Europe, America, and Asia, in some of the world's most prestigious concert halls, such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Musikverein in Vienna, Berliner Philharmonie, Alte Oper in Frankfurt, Herkulessaal in Munich, Salle Pleyel in Paris, the Royal Festival Hall as well as the Wigmore Hall in London, Tonhalle in Zurich, and La Scala in Milan. He has performed with Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien and Minnesota Orchestra, been on tour with Camerata Salzburg and Kammerorchester Basel under the baton of Trevor Pinnock, and gave recitals in Berlin's Philharmonie, Prinzregententheater Munich, Cité de la musique Paris, Tisch Center New York, among others.

Highlights of his 2017/2018 season include a tour in Germany and the UK with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla as well as recitals in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan in autumn, then in New York, Boston, Atlanta, and Vancouver in the spring.

Blechacz is an exclusive recording artist of Deutsche Grammophon. His debut CD of Chopin Preludes won the Platinum Record status in his native Poland, as well as a German Echo Klassik and French

(more)

Diapason d'Or award. His CD of both Chopin concerti with the Concertgebouw Orchestra under the baton of Jerzy Semkow was awarded the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik. In 2012, his recording of works by Debussy and Szymanowski was released and awarded Recording of the Month by *Gramophone* magazine and Solo Recording of the Year by Echo Klassik. These are followed by the acclaimed release of his fifth album of Chopin Polonaises in 2013, and the most recent solo CD of works by J.S Bach in 2017.

Born in 1985 in Nakło nad Notecią, Blechacz started playing piano at the age of five. He studied in the Artur Rubinstein State Primary School of Music in Bydgoszcz under the supervision of Professor Jacek Polański. In 2007, he graduated from the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz, studying under Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń. Taking a sabbatical from the stage in 2016, Blechacz completed his Ph.D. thesis in philosophy of music.

PROGRAM

MOZART: Rondo in A minor, K. 511
MOZART: Sonata in A minor, K. 310
BEETHOVEN: Sonata in A Major, Opus 101
SCHUMANN: Carnival Scenes from Vienna, Opus 26
CHOPIN: Four Mazurkas, Opus 24
CHOPIN: Ballade No. 4, Opus 52

About Celebrity Series of Boston

Celebrity Series of Boston was founded in 1938 by pianist and impresario Aaron Richmond. Over the course of its 79-year history, Celebrity Series has presented an array of the world's greatest performing artists, including Sergei Rachmaninoff, Arturo Toscanini, Ignace Paderewski, Artur Rubenstein, Vladimir Horowitz, Glenn Gould, Fritz Kreisler, Jascha Heifetz, Isaac Stern, Andrés Segovia, Kirsten Flagstad, Marian Anderson, Luciano Pavarotti, Béla Bartók, Igor Stravinsky, Martha Graham, Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mstislav Rostropovich, and the New York City Opera Company.

From orchestras and chamber ensembles, vocal and piano music, to dance companies, jazz, spoken word, and more, Celebrity Series has been bringing great artists to Boston's major concert halls for nearly eight decades. The Celebrity Series of Boston believes in the power of excellence and innovation in the performing arts to enrich life experiences, transform lives and build better communities. Through its *Arts for All!* community programs, the Celebrity Series seeks to build a community of Greater Boston where the performing arts are a valued, lifelong, shared experience—on stages, in schools, at home—everywhere.

The Celebrity Series of Boston, Inc. receives generous support from Leslie & Howard Appleby, Amy & Joshua Boger, the Barr Foundation, the Boston Cultural Council, The Boston Foundation, the Stephanie L. Brown Foundation, The Catered Affair, Susanne Marcus Collins Foundation, Deloitte LLP, Donna & Mike Egan, Foley & Lardner LLP, the French-US Exchange in Dance, Gabor Garai & Susan Pravda, David & Harriet Griesinger, Zachary Haroutunian and the Garbis & Arminé Barsoumian Charitable Foundation, Paul L. King, the Liberty Mutual Foundation, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Eleanor & Frank Pao, The Peabody Foundation, Melinda & James Rabb, the Cynthia and John S. Reed Foundation, the Royal Little Family Foundation, the Stifler Family Foundation, Mrs. Belinda Herrera Termeer, Michael and Susan Thonis, Tufts Health Plan, Nancy Richmond Winsten, Anonymous, and many others.

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