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Michael Sellers, Pianist



Contents:

- **Biography**
- **Critical Acclaim**

Biography

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Michael Sellers was the recipient of the Rudolph Ganz Scholarship Award, a Rockefeller grant to study at the Aspen Music School and a scholarship to study at the Manhattan School of Music.

He earned degrees from Northwestern University and the Manhattan School of Music and received a certificate from the Moscow Conservatory for his participation in a series of master classes given by Mikhail Voskressensky and Halina Czerny-Stefanska. His teachers have been Rudolph Ganz, Aube Tzerko, Mario Feninger, Nina Scolnik and Marc Steiner. He worked in the compositional and theoretical areas with Dane Rudhyar, Karol B. Jirak and Ingolf Dahl.

His recordings for Orion Records, under the auspices of the Yehudi Menuin Foundation, have received wide recognition and acclaim, including a "Recording of Special Merit" accolade from Stereo Review.

In November 1999, Sellers made a most successful 17th European tour, where he played recitals in Italy, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland. Highlights were a recital at Budapest's Liszt Museum in Liszt's own concert hall where Liszt gave master classes and which opens up to his last Hungarian residence. And then there was a private concert in Chopin's birth home at Zelazowa Wola. Some of these concerts were filmed for TV.

Sellers gave a number of master classes in Italy and Poland. His concerts in Poland were particularly successful, prompting one critic to say he "played Chopin in a truly Polish style with wonderful nuances and colors."

Highlights of other recent tours include:

- a tour of Hungary, in which he played a number of concerts in the annual Spring Festival
- a recital on the prestigious Phillips Collection Series in Washington, D.C.
- live broadcast recitals on the "Sunday Live" Series at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, WMFT Radio in Chicago, the European International Festivals I and II, and for the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.
- an Asian tour which included concerts and master classes at Hong Kong University, the Jockey Club of Polytechnic University of Hong Kong and Taiwan's Tunghai and Fu Jen Universities.
- recordings for NCRV (Holland), Radio Suisse Romande, WFMT (Chicago), Vatican Radio (Rome, Italy)

Critical Acclaim

"At home throughout the world."

-Saarbrücken: Saarbrücker Zeitung

"A great pianist ... playing in a grand style (and) with plenty of character."

-Brussels News

"Clearly a virtuoso."

-Frankfurt: Allgemeine Zeitung

"A genuinely stirring exhibition of bravura... massive in tone and imposing in concept."

-Los Angeles Times

"Exciting performances ... exceptional imagination and virtuosity."

-New York: Soho News

"Rare insight, ease, and striking intensity."

-Edinburgh Evening News

"A pianist of great personality and wide-ranging technique, with great powers of interpretation."

-Malta Times