

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR PIANIST

"...his performance was a highlight of the season
and already represents an astonishing achievement." *The New York Times*





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"frighteningly talented"
The New York Times

"...he has emerged as the leading
American pianist of his generation."
Boston Globe

"precise playing and interpretive conviction....
commanding, fiercely punctuated and
full of physical power."
[Lutoslawski Piano Concerto, Milwaukee Symphony]
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

"Most apparent were the almost
superhuman control, coordination
and concentration of the performer."
Chicago Tribune

"Taylor, a versatile, ready-for-anything soloist,
delivered a brilliant, intense performance..."
The Denver Post

"the performance was extraordinary. Taylor, who
graduated summa cum laude from Harvard with a
mathematics degree in 1992 — two years after he
received first prize in the William Kapell International
Piano Competition — is a genius. I doubt few present
will forget how he lifted us to a realm beyond time
and space."
San Francisco Classical Voice

"Bolcom's splendid "Twelve New Etudes"
[was] delivered with a daring spontaneity that masked
some phenomenal technique"
Washington Post

"The young pianist Christopher Taylor is so talented
it's almost frightening...Taylor revealed limpid, legato
lines of plaintive beauty.
His ear was alert to the fantasy and drama
in this work."
The Boston Globe

"A stunning new recording of William Bolcom's Pulitzer
Prize-winning "Twelve New Etudes"... [The etudes]
require a pianist of equally nimble intelligence and
imagination - not to mention physical endurance - and
Taylor is more than
up to the challenge."
The New Yorker

Among pianists, Christopher Taylor stands out as an innovative musician with a diverse array of talents and interests (mathematics, computing, philosophy and linguistics among them). He has performed with major symphony orchestras (the New York Philharmonic, St. Louis Symphony, and Detroit Symphony, among others), given recitals in major venues across the U.S. and abroad, created a DVD of his epic performance of Messiaen's 'Vingt Regards' and toured on an innovative dual-manual Steinway in performances of Bach's Goldberg Variations.

While he is known for a passionate advocacy of music written in the past 100 years — particularly Messiaen, Ligeti, and Bolcom — his repertoire spans four centuries and includes the complete Beethoven sonatas, the Liszt Transcendental Etudes, and the Goldbergs, among many masterworks. In one recent season, the New York Times wrote of Taylor's appearances -- Messiaen's towering 'Vingt Regards' at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, "a powerful interpretation", and works of Bach and Rzewski for Miller Theatre's Baroque Series, "a dazzlingly virtuosic and thoughtful musician". Whatever the genre or era of the composition, Mr. Taylor brings to it an active imagination and intellect coupled with heartfelt intensity and grace.

Indeed beyond his well-earned reputation for exquisite performances of Bach and exciting performances of romantic piano concertos, he has captured the attention of the music world with his tour de force programming of Olivier Messiaen's Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus: "an astonishing performance... more than two hours of some of the most complex and difficult music ever written for the piano. And he played the 176-page score from memory."
New York Times

Taylor has concertized around the globe and appeared with the Symphonies of Milwaukee, Colorado, Atlanta, Indianapolis, Houston, Los Angeles, and the Boston Pops. As a soloist he has performed in New York's Carnegie and Alice Tully Halls, Washington's Kennedy Center, the Ravinia, Caramoor and Aspen festivals, and dozens of other venues. "He has collaborated with many eminent ensembles, including the Borromeo, Shanghai, Ying, and Pro Arte Quartets. In celebration of the Pro Arte's 100th anniversary, he has made the premiere recording of William Bolcom's Piano Quartet #2 for Albany Records.

Named an American Pianists' Association Fellow for 2000, Christopher Taylor received an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1996 and the Bronze Medal in the 1993 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. He was awarded first prize in the William Kapell International Piano Competition in 1990. Taylor serves as Associate Professor of Piano Performance at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

photo credit: Katrin Talbot