

Robert Levin

Piano and Conductor



“Levin lives Mozart throughout his entire body, and for every second of the score... he plays the music as if he's writing it himself - for the first time”

Hilary Finch, *The Times*

Pianist Robert Levin has been heard throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and Asia, in recital, as soloist, and in chamber concerts. He has performed with the orchestras of Berlin, Birmingham, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Montreal, Tokyo and Vienna with such conductors as Bernard Haitink, Sir Neville Marriner, Seiji Ozawa, Sir Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Joseph Silverstein. On fortepiano he has appeared with the Academy of Ancient Music, Handel and Haydn Society, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Orchestre Révolutionnaire et

Romantique, with Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Christopher Hogwood, Sir Charles Mackerras, Nicholas McGegan and Sir Roger Norrington. He has performed frequently at such festivals as Sarasota, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Bremen, Lockenhaus, Verbier and the Mozartwoche in Salzburg. As a chamber musician, partners include Steven Isserlis, Kim Kashkashian, Ya-Fei Chuang and Hilary Hahn.

Robert Levin is renowned for his restoration of the Classical period practice of improvised embellishments and cadenzas; his Mozart and Beethoven performances have been hailed for their active mastery of the Classical musical language. He has made recordings for DG Archiv, CRI, Decca/Oiseau-Lyre, Deutsche Grammophon Yellow Label, ECM, New York Philomusica, Nonesuch, Philips, and SONY Classical. These include the complete Bach concertos with Helmuth Rilling as well as the English Suites and the *Well-Tempered Clavier* for Hänssler's 172-CD Edition Bach-Akademie. Other recordings include a Beethoven concerto cycle with Sir John Eliot Gardiner and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique for DG Archiv, as well as the complete Beethoven cello and piano works for Hyperion with Steven Isserlis, which was named *Gramophone Magazine's* 'Recording of the Month' in early 2014. Recent releases include the six Bach Partitas (*Grand Prix International du Disque*) and the complete Schubert piano trios with Noah Bendix-Balgley and Peter Wiley (Le Palais des Dégustateurs.) His recording cycle of Mozart's complete works for keyboard and orchestra initiated in 1993 with Academy of Ancient Music and Christopher Hogwood saw its completion in 2022 under the artistic leadership of Laurence Cummings. His complete recording of Mozart's piano sonatas released in 2022 by ECM earned the status of the *BBC Music Magazine's* 'Recording of the Month'.

Concluding a groundbreaking 30-year recording cycle, Robert's most recent and final Mozart piano concerto disc with Academy of Ancient Music, featuring concertos nos. 25 and 27, was released in June 2024. Met with great critical acclaim, reviews highlighted the freshness of such a lengthy project.

Robert Levin studied piano with Louis Martin and composition with Stefan Wolpe in New York. He worked with Nadia Boulanger in Fontainebleau and Paris while still in high school, afterwards attending Harvard. Upon graduation he was invited by Rudolf Serkin to head the theory department of the Curtis Institute of Music, a post he left after five years to take up a professorship at the School of the Arts, SUNY Purchase, outside of New York City. In

1979 he was Resident Director of the Conservatoire Américain in Fontainebleau, France, at the request of Nadia Boulanger, and taught there from 1979 to 1983. Between 1986 and 1993 he was professor of piano at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. President of the International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he has also been Dwight P. Robinson, Jr. Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. In 2016 he was inducted as Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is currently the inaugural Hogwood Fellow of the Academy of Ancient Music for 2017 and 2018.

In addition to his performing activities, Robert Levin is a noted theorist and Mozart scholar, and is the author of a number of articles and essays on Mozart. His completions of Mozart fragments are published by Bärenreiter, Breitkopf & Härtel, Hänssler, and Peters, and have been recorded and performed throughout the world. Levin's cadenzas to the Mozart violin concertos have been recorded by Gidon Kremer with Nikolaus Harnoncourt and the Vienna Philharmonic for Deutsche Grammophon and published by Universal Edition. Henle has also issued his cadenzas to the flute, oboe and horn concertos and will publish his cadenzas to Beethoven's violin concerto. His reconstruction of the *Symphonie Concertante in E-flat major* for four winds and orchestra, K.297B, was premiered by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the Mozartwoche in Salzburg, and has subsequently been performed worldwide. The first of four recordings of the work, by Philips, won the 1985 Grand Prix International du Disque. In August 1991 Robert Levin's completion of Mozart's *Requiem* was premiered by Helmuth Rilling at the European Music Festival in Stuttgart to a standing ovation. Published by Hänssler-Verlag, it has been performed worldwide and recorded numerous times. A Carnegie Hall commission to complete Mozart's *Mass in C minor*, K. 427 was premiered in 2005.

Recent highlights include concerts with the Israel Camerata, the Academy of Ancient Music, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre d'Auvergne, City of London Sinfonia, Handel & Haydn Society and New Jersey Symphony, as well as recitals at Würzburg Bach Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, Leipzig BachFest, Bachwoche Ansbach, Würzburg Mozartfest, Bergen International Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, and his annual appearances at the Salzburg Mozartwoche.

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