

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 • 8:00 PM

SARA DAVIS BUECHNER, PIANO

Murray and Michele Allen Recital Hall 2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

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Program

Wolfgang Mozart (1756-1791) Fantasy in D minor KV 394 Andante - Allegretto

Wolfgang Mozart (1756-1791) Sonata in D major KV 576

> Allegro Adagio Allegretto

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) Four Pieces for Piano op. 52 Impromptu - Intermezzo - Gigue - Eclogue

- Intermission -

Edward MacDowell (1861-1908)

From "Woodland Sketches" op. 51

To a Wild Rose - In Autumn - At an Old Trysting Place By a Meadow Brook - To a Water Lily

Rudolf Friml (1879-1972)

Four Salon Pieces

Chanson ("The Donkey Serenade") Staccato Etude op. 37 Iris (Intermezzo) Bohemian Dance (Polka) op. 29

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Rhapsody in Blue

solo piano arrangement by the composer

BIOGRAPHIES

Sara Davis Buechner is one of the leading concert pianists of our time. She has been praised worldwide as a musician of "intelligence, integrity and all-encompassing technical prowess" (New York Times); lauded for her "fascinating and astounding virtuosity" (Philippine Star), and her "thoughtful artistry in the full service of music" (Washington Post); and celebrated for her performances which are "never less than 100% committed and breathtaking" (Pianoforte Magazine, London). Japan's InTune magazine says: "When it comes to clarity, flawless tempo selection, phrasing and precise control of timbre, Buechner has no superior."

In her twenties, Ms. Buechner was the winner of a bouquet of prizes at the world's première piano competitions -- Queen Elisabeth of Belgium, Leeds, Salzburg, Sydney and Vienna. She won the Gold Medal at the 1984 Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, and was a Bronze Medalist of the 1986 Tschaikowsky International Piano Competition in Moscow.

With an active repertoire of more than 100 piano concertos ranging from A (Albeníz) to Z (Zimbalist) -- one of the largest of any concert pianist today -- she has appeared as soloist with many of the world's prominent orchestras: New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Saint Louis, San Francisco, Montréal, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Honolulu, Qingdao and Tokyo; the CBC Radio Orchestra, Japan Philharmonic, City of Birmingham (U.K.) Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Moscow Radio Symphony, Kuopio (Finland) Philharmonic, Slovak Philharmonic and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain). Audiences throughout North America have applauded Ms. Buechner's recitals in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center and the Hollywood Bowl; and she enjoys wide success throughout Asia where she tours annually.

Sara Davis Buechner's numerous recordings have received prominent critical appraisal. The *New York Times* greeted her recent Koch International CD of piano music by Rudolf Friml as a "revelation," and devoted the front page of its Sunday Arts & Leisure section to her 1997 world première recording of the Bach-Busoni "Goldberg" Variations. Her George Gershwin album was selected as a "Record of the Month" by *Stereophile* magazine, and her traversal of Hollywoodpiano concertos by Bernard Herrmann and Franz Waxman won Germany's *Deutsches Schauplatten Preis* for best soundtrack. Ms. Buechner's extensive discography also includes rare American music of Dana Suesse, Pauline Alpert and Joseph Lamb, as well as the the complete piano music of Miklós Rózsa.

Ms. Buechner's artistry can be experienced on numerous online sites, and on her own website and YouTube Channel. She has also recorded many

disks for the Yamaha Disklavier, Piano Soft and Grand Touch systems; and her work may also be heard on the recent DVD of Carl Dreiser's 1925 silent film masterpiece "Master of the House," available through the Criterion Collection.

As a collaborative artist, she is one of the few pianists who actively performs piano scores to silent movies, notably the 150-minute long restored version of *Ben-Hur* (1925) at Lincoln Center and elsewhere. Ms. Buechner has also collaborated on dance projects with choreographer Neta Pulvermacher, performance artist Nori Nke Aka, and mimist Yayoi Hirano; and toured extensively as pianist with the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Sara Davis Buechner has given premières of important new music and film scores by Larry Bell, Dorothy Chang, Stephen Chatman, Pierre Charvet, John Corigliano, Richard Danielpour, Ray Green, Miriam Hyde, Dick Hyman, Vitězslavá Kaprálová, Henry Martin, Jared Miller, Joaquín Nin-Culmell, Yukiko Nishimura, David Raksin, Miklós Rózsa, and Wim Zwaag.

Profiles of Ms. Buechner have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine, Macleans, Paris Match, Piano Today, Noticias del Argentina, Out, Blade* and *Frontiers* magazines; and she has been featured on the television programs *Entertainment Tonight, Extra, In the Life,* and *Bynon.* Appearances on radio include profiles on NPR's *The Fishko Files* and *Performance Today,* WFMT's Dame Myra Hess Recital Series, WNYC's *New Sounds with John Schaefer,* at WQXR's Greene Space, and on Canada's CBC *Westcoast Performance and Richardson's Roundup.*

Sara Davis Buechner is the most prominent transgender musician appearing on the classical concert stage today. She received the Eleanor Roosevelt Award of Brandeis University, and is a member of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. She often presents talks and workshops to LGBTQIA+ groups, and has received praise for her solo autobiographical theater show "Of Pigs and Pianos," which premièred at New York City's TheaterLab in 2021 to rave reviews.

In 2016 Sara Davis Buechner joined the prestigious piano faculty of Temple University in Philadelphia. She is a former faculty member of New York University and the University of British Columbia, and Honorary Visiting Professor of Music at the University of Shanghai. Ms. Buechner has presented lectures and masterclasses worldwide, notably at the Royal Academy in London, the Juilliard School in New York City, Indiana University, the Eastman School of Music, Shanghai Conservatory, and

SARA DAVIS BUECHNER, PIANO • OCTOBER 22, 2024 BIOGRAPHIES

the Kobe-Yamate Gakuen in Osaka, Japan. She is a regular adjudicator of the Concert Artists Guild International Music Competition in New York, and has also served as a juror for the Rudolf Firkušný International Piano Competition in Prague, and the International E-Competition in Fairbanks, Alaska. In addition, Ms. Buechner has served as Principal Music Consultant for Dover Publications International.

A fan of baseball worldwide, she has been a featured performer at the New York Mets Pride Night festivities at Citifield, and in 2007 was anointed an honorary member of the Hanshin Tigers baseball team of Osaka, Japan.

In 2022 Sara Davis Buechner marked her 35th year as a dedicated Yamaha artist.

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School of Music

October 23 • 7:00 P.M. Allen Recital Hall Composer's Forum

October 26 • 8:00 P.M. Gannon Concert Hall DePaul Concert Choir

October 28 • 8:00 P.M.
Gannon Concert Hall
DePaul Percussion Ensemble

October 29 • 7:00 P.M.
Allen Recital Hall
Wind/Mixed Chamber Showcase I

October 30 • 7:00 p.m. Dempsey Corboy Hall DePaul Jazz Combos I

October 30 • 7:00 p.m.
Allen Recital Hall
String Chamber Showcase I

October 31 • 7:00 р.м.
Allen Recital Hall
String Chamber Showcase II

November 2 • 8:00 P.M.
Gannon Concert Hall
DePaul Symphony Orchestra

November 3 • 3:00 P.M. Allen Recital Hall DePaul Baroque Ensemble

November 3 • 3:00 P.M. Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall DePaul Jazz Ensemble

November 3 • 6:00 P.M. Gannon Concert Hall DePaul Brass Ensemble

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November 15 • 7:00 P.M. Allen Recital Hall Jeremy Ruthrauff, saxophone

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