

THE AMERICAN PIANO

Lectures and Workshops by Anthony de Mare and Steven Mayer

ANTHONY de MARE: The American Piano Visionary in the 20th Century

For Pianists: A lecture/demo workshop would include an exploration of the visionary trends throughout the 20th Century focusing on those pioneers who helped create a unique identity for American music. Jazz influenced works and early extended piano techniques (Ives, Copland, Harrison, Cowell, Ornstein, Antheil, Cage, Nancarrow, among others) will be featured. Electronic tape and piano works, graphic scores, modernism and post-modernism in addition to the most recent approaches including the disklavier and more theatrically-based works for singing/speaking pianist and interactive video will round out the maverick trends of the second half of the century. The goal is to illustrate the growth and development of performance possibilities throughout the century. Incorporating my own performances at the piano in addition to the use of recordings and video, I would also encourage the students to perform live in the class with works previously prepared.

For Composers: I would present a cross-section of the range of styles in piano composition from the past sixty years strongly focusing on the interdisciplinary theatrical approaches using the piano and disklavier. Emphasis would be on the most recent music with discussion and open forum about works currently in my repertoire that consider important developments in moving the piano forward into the 21st Century. I would also make myself available for individual consultations with the composers who are currently writing new piano works.

STEVEN MAYER: 200 Years of American Piano Music

A lecture/demo workshop would survey America's greatest piano music from its African-American origins in Gottschalk and Joplin through Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller and Art Tatum, to European-trained Americans Heinrich, MacDowell, Mason, Nevin and Griffes, to 20th Century icons Copland, Barber and Ives. Emphasis will be placed on the relationship between classical masters such as Chopin, Liszt and Mendelssohn and 19th century American composers, as well as the interrelation between the Harlem stride pianists and the European masters.

Additionally, a lecture devoted exclusively to America's single greatest work for piano: Ives' "Concord" Sonata. Mr. Mayer is recording the complete piano works of Ives for Naxos.