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Fall, 2009

PAAVALI JUMPPANEN

Piano

Finnish pianist PAAVALI JUMPPANEN won First Prize in the 2000 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and four special prizes: the Bruce Hungerford Memorial Prize, the Maurice M. Clairmont Piano Prize, the Joseph Kalichstein Piano Prize, and the Pennsylvania Presenters' Prize, which bestowed upon the pianist a thirteen-concert tour throughout the state. He is also the recipient of the First Miriam Horowitz Meckler Award, established by the late YCA alumna pianist Ruth Laredo.

Mr. Jumppanen's New York debut at in 2001 at the 92nd Street Y, presented by YCA, garnered reviews of "fresh and exciting" playing and "immense power and an extraordinary range of colors." Mr. Jumppanen also debuted in the YCA Series at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, and performed in New York at the Morgan Library and at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. In 2002, Mr. Jumppanen made his New York concerto debut with the New York Chamber Symphony conducted by Gerard Schwarz at Alice Tully Hall. The years spent with YCA gave the pianist a thorough insight into the music life of the U.S. During that time he appeared in more than twenty different states performing solo recitals, concertos and chamber music.

In January of 2007, Paavali Jumppanen embarked on a cycle of eight concerts over a period of two years at the Gardner Museum in which he performed the 32 Beethoven Sonatas. The cycle was also performed in three different cities in Finland over the same period. In connection with the series, Mr. Jumppanen gave lectures on the composer's style and worked with students focusing on Beethoven's music. Jumppanen continues his Beethoven project by beginning three more two-year concert cycles in three cities in Finland during the 2009-10 season. In addition, the following season 2010-11 will include performances of the complete Piano Sonatas by Mozart in Finland and in the U.S. Inspired by the classical era and Beethoven's music in particular Mr. Jumppanen is currently in the process of preparing for publication a book of essays concerning the evolution of the compositional style within the Sonata cycle by Beethoven.

Alongside the Beethoven Piano Sonatas, Mr. Jumppanen has been drawn by other repertoire by the composer as well. He has performed the complete Piano Concertos of the composer in a cycle with the Symphony orchestra of the city of Kuopio and, during the season 2003-04, performed the complete Beethoven Violin Sonatas with violinist Corey Cerovsek at the Gardner Museum. In 2007, the Swiss recording label Claves released the complete Sonatas for Violin & Piano by Beethoven performed by Cerovsek and Jumppanen. The recording received the Midem Prize of Cannes in February 2008 for best chamber music disc of the year.

Recent concert tours have included those in North American with the Hungarian Symphony Orchestra under Andras Ligeti and the Czech Symphony Orchestra under Theodore Kuchar. He has also toured Australia as soloist with the Melbourne Symphony and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. He has performed with the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra in Sweden, Orchestre des Concerts Lamoureux at Theatre des Champs Elysees in Paris, the Rochester Philharmonic, Pasadena Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Belgrade Philharmonic, Basel Symphony, Columbus Symphony (GA), Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, the New World Symphony in Florida, the Orchestre de Cannes and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, with which Mr. Jumppanen has both recorded and given live performances in

London. Spring 2009 included the first performance of the Schoenberg's piano concerto in Prague with the Czech Philharmonic as well as concerto appearances in Germany, the U.S. and Finland.

Winner of First Prize in Finland's national Maj Lind Competition in Helsinki at the age of nineteen, Mr. Jumppanen has since performed as soloist with all of Finland's orchestras and nowadays he frequently appears with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic, Tapiola Sinfonietta and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra. During the current season, Mr. Jumppanen has performed at the Lahti Symphony Orchestra's celebrated Sibelius festival and during the season 2010-11 Jumppanen will premiere a piano concerto by the Finnish composer Olli Kortekangas with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Paavali Jumppanen frequently gives solo recitals and has performed numerous times in the prominent concert halls of Paris, New York, Vienna and London. In addition to the continuation of the Beethoven Series and his long association with the Gardner Museum, his 2007-08 and 2008-09 recital seasons included engagements and residencies at Bucknell University and Cambridge in the U.S. and in Switzerland, Cyprus, Romania and Japan. The 08-09 season included performances of Olivier Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* as part of a celebration of the composer's centenary. Mr. Jumppanen will perform the Messiaen work at the Gardner Museum in March 2010. In addition he will perform solo recitals and concertos in Sweden, Romania and Germany

Mr. Jumppanen has played at numerous international music festivals including the La Roque d'Antheron Festival in France, Kitayushu Chamber Music Festival in Japan and at the Oslo Chamber Music Festival in Norway. He is a regular visitor at the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland and at the Kingston Chamber Music Festival in the U.S. He served a two-year post in 2004-05 as the Artistic Director for Finland's Lemi-Lappeenranta Music Festival.

Born in Espoo, Finland, Paavali Jumppanen began to play the piano at the age of five at the Espoo Music Institute, where he studied with Marja Huhtamaki and Katarina Nummi. He studied at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki with Margit Rahkonen, and has performed in master classes for Murray Perahia, Dimitry Bashkirov, Pascal Devoyon, and Eero Heinonen. From 1997-2000 he worked with Krystian Zimerman at the Music Academy of Basel in Switzerland, where he was awarded the Soloist Diploma, the highest possible award.

Mr. Jumppanen frequently programs contemporary works, and regularly commissions works from Finnish composers. He has worked with Henri Dutilleux on the composer's Piano Sonata. In 2004, he recorded the complete Piano Sonatas of Pierre Boulez, released on the Deutsche Grammophon label in 2005. The recording has received prizes in France and Germany and the *Guardian* in London called it "the best recorded disc of Boulez's piano music so far."

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