

A man with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a black tuxedo jacket, a white dress shirt, and a white bow tie, stands on a wide set of stone steps. He is looking slightly to his right with a gentle smile. In the background, a building with a dark, ornate balcony featuring a diamond-patterned railing is visible. The lighting is soft and warm, suggesting late afternoon or early evening. The overall mood is elegant and sophisticated.

ROBERT SCHUMANN

Works for Cello & Piano

BRIAN THORNTON, CELLO | SPENCER MYER, PIANO



STEINWAY & SONS

BRIAN THORNTON is a multi-faceted musician who has touched the lives of thousands of people through his performances commemorating his teacher, Lev Aronson, and through musical outreach programs around the world.

Mr. Thornton is the founder of the Aronson Cello Festival. Over the years, the festival has grown to include musicians, artists, filmmakers, poets, writers, composers, conductors, educators, and many passionate supporters of the arts.

The festival honors Mr. Aronson's work, his colleagues, his friends, his family, and the music that shaped the lives he forever changed. It honors his distinguished students--Ralph Kirshbaum, Lynn Harrell, John Sharp, Christopher Adkins, Mitchell Maxwell--as well as a generation of emerging artists and students who are learning from and emulating the best practices of this master teacher.

Mr. Thornton teaches at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) and performs with the Cleveland Orchestra where he has been part of the cello section for twenty-five years. His solo album: *Kol Nidrei and Beyond, Lev's Story*, is centered on the vocal qualities of the cello, and is dedicated to the memory of Mr. Aronson. He has recorded



two other critically acclaimed albums for the Steinway and Sons recording label: the Brahms Cello Sonatas, as well as the Debussy Sonata and the Brahms Clarinet Trio with the principal clarinetist of the Cleveland Orchestra, Afendi Yusuf, and his collaborative pianist, Spencer Myer, also a Steinway recording artist.

Education is also a focus of Mr. Thornton's life, and he spends part of his time teaching at CIM, conducting young musicians, as well as traveling to teach in different parts of the world.

Mr. Thornton began playing the cello in the public school system of Chicago, giving him a passion for teaching young musicians and public school outreach programs. He has traveled from Kolkata, India to Osaka, Japan, influencing young musicians not only to play better cello, but to use music to positively affect the world around them.

Modern music is of particular interest to Mr. Thornton, and he has premiered more than a hundred new solo cello works around the world.



Lauded for “superb playing” and “poised, alert musicianship” by the *Boston Globe*, and labeled “definitely a man to watch” by London’s *The Independent* after his 2012 Wigmore Hall recital debut, American pianist **SPENCER MYER** is one of the most respected and sought-after artists on today’s concert stage.

He has been soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cape Town and Johannesburg Philharmonics, the Indianapolis, New Haven and Phoenix Symphony Orchestras and Beijing’s China National Symphony, collaborating with conductors Michael Christie, Robert Franz, Bernhard Gueller, Jahja Ling, Kevin Rhodes, Gerald Steichen, Thomas Wilkins and Victor Yampolsky. His 2005 tour of South Africa included a performance of Beethoven’s five piano concerti with the Chamber Orchestra of South Africa, followed by six subsequent return tours. An in-demand chamber musician, he has appeared at the Lev Aronson Legacy Festival with cellists Lynn Harrell, Brian Thornton, Ralph Kirshbaum and Amit Peled, and enjoys a recurring partnership with the Miami String Quartet at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival. Other artistic partners include

clarinetist David Shifrin, soprano Nicole Cabell, and the Jupiter and Pacifica String Quartets.

Spencer Myer's career was launched with three important prizes: First Prize in the 2004 UNISA International Piano Competition in South Africa, the 2006 Christel DeHaan Classical Fellowship from the American Pianists Association and the Gold Medal from the 2008 New Orleans International Piano Competition. He was a member of Astral Artists' performance roster from 2003-2010.

A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory, The Juilliard School and Stony Brook University, he is currently a member of the Piano and Collaborative Piano faculty at Boston's Longy School of Music of Bard College. His debut CD for Steinway & Sons — Piano Rags of William Bolcom — was released to critical acclaim in 2017, and this disc marks his third collaboration with cellist Brian Thornton for the label.

Spencer Myer is a Steinway Artist.



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Recorded Direct to the Stereo Master at Clonick Hall Studio,
Oberlin Conservatory of Music; Oberlin, Ohio on August 27 - 29, 2018.

Recording Producer: Thomas C. Moore, Five/Four Productions, Ltd.

Recording, Mix, and Mastering Engineer: Michael Bishop, Five/Four Productions, Ltd.

Recording Editor: Thomas C. Moore, Five/Four Productions, Ltd.

Microphones: AEA R-88, Sanken CO-100K

Microphone Preamplifiers: Integer Audio Ribbon RMP-1, Millennia Media HV3

Recording Console: Rupert Neve Designs 5088

Piano: Steinway Model D # 464137 (New York)

Recorded and Mastered using Five/Four Productions' REVEAL SDMTM Technology.



REVEAL-Superior Dimension Music Technology is employed exclusively by Five/Four Productions
to raise the standard of excellence in both music recording and the music listening experience.

Executive Producer: Jon Feidner

Art Direction: Jackie Fugere

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Production Assistant: Renée Oakford

Photo of Brian Thornton: Yossi Michaeli

Photo of Spencer Myer: Supatcha Rattanathumawat

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Works for Cello & Piano

1 Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70 9:04

Fünf Stücke im Volkston, Op. 102

2 I. Mit humor "Vanitas vanitatum" 3:07

3 II. Langsam 3:08

4 III. Nicht schnell, mit viel Ton zu spielen 4:09

5 IV. Nicht zu rasch 2:09

6 V. Stark und markirt 2:47

Fantasiestücke, Op. 73

7 I. Zart und mit Ausdruck 4:00

8 II. Lebhaft, leicht 3:58

9 III. Rasch und mit Feuer 4:31

10 Franz Schubert: Ave Maria, D. 839 4:44

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