2016 INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL

PERFORMANCES

ABBEY SIMON  FEBRUARY 5 • 7:30 P.M.
KIRILL GERSTEIN  FEBRUARY 6 • 7:30 P.M.
JOHN O’CONOR  FEBRUARY 7 • 3:00 P.M.

MASTER CLASSES

JOHN O’CONOR  FEBRUARY 6 • 9:00 A.M.
ABBEY SIMON  FEBRUARY 6 • 2:00 P.M.
KIRILL GERSTEIN  FEBRUARY 7 • 11:30 A.M.
…and the kind of flawless touch that makes an audience gasp."

-Gramophone

"A pianist of unbounding sensitivity."

-Gramophone

ABBY SIMON, festival founder, has performed to critical acclaim in recital and as a soloist with major orchestras worldwide for over 75 years. Recordings on Philips, EMI, and Vox Turnabout labels make him one of the most recorded classical artists of all time, including the complete piano works of Ravel, most of the solo works of Chopin and Schumann, and complete orchestral works with piano by Rachmaninoff and Chopin. Recipient of the National Orchestral Award, Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Medal, and Walter W. Naumburg Award, he holds a Cullen Distinguished Professorship at the University of Houston’s Moores School of Music, where he has been on faculty since 1977. abbeysimon.com

FEBRUARY 5 • 7:30 P.M. | Clementi, Chopin, Schumann

KIRILL GERSTEIN, the multifaceted winner of the prestigious Gilmore Artist Award, has rapidly ascended as a top international pianist. Also recipient of the 2010 Avery Fisher Grant, he has performed with major orchestras, such as New York, Minnesota, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, and Baltimore, in the US and was a featured soloist in the complete concertos for the Houston Symphony’s Rachmaninov Festival in 2012. Gerstein has appeared internationally as a soloist with the most prestigious orchestra, in recital, as a chamber musician with longtime partner, cellist Steven Isserlis, and has commissioned boundary crossing new works by Oliver Knussen, Chick Corea, and Brad Mehldau, with more scheduled for future seasons. He has been a professor at the Musikhochschule Stuttgart since 2006. kirillgerstein.com

FEBRUARY 6 • 7:30 P.M. | Beethoven, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Mussorgsky, Balakirev

Irish pianist JOHN O’CONOR has been gathering wonderful reviews for his masterly playing for over forty years. Having studied in his native Dublin, in Vienna with Dieter Weber, and tutored by the legendary Wilhelm Kempff, his unanimous 1st Prize at the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna in 1973 opened the door to a career that has taken him all around the world. His recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas led CD Review to say that he “by now should be recognised as the world’s premier Beethoven interpreter,” and his recent recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Concertos with the London Symphony Orchestra and Andreas Delfs have also been greeted with acclaim. A Steinway Artist, he is Chair of the Piano Division at Shenandoah University in Virginia, a faculty member at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, International Visiting Artist at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Visiting Professor at Showa University in Japan. For his services to music he has been recognized by the French, Austrian, and Japanese governments with their highest honorary titles, among many other awards. johnoconor.com

FEBRUARY 7 • 3:00 P.M. | Schubert, Field, Beethoven