

Eric Himy



The New York Times has described pianist Eric Himy's playing "flawlessly poised, elegant and brilliant." His compelling artistry has intrigued audiences around the world. His technique has been compared recently by the *2007 Revue Musicale de Suisse Romande* to that of the legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz and called him "a sensual gourmand of sound." He has played to critical acclaim in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, and Slovenia. Mr. Himy has been heard most notably at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Recital Hall, The Frick Collection, The Phillips Collection, Salle Cortot and Salle Gaveau in Paris and on NPR "Performance Today." Following an all-Ravel concert The Washington Post wrote: "Enchanting his audience with an inspiring recital, Mr. Himy matched the sense of sophistication, boldness and unequalled genius inherent in Ravel's music and left no doubt of his musical prowess." His Ravel recitals in France prompted one critic to write: "his dazzling vision equaled and at times even surpassed some more famous interpretations (Argerich, François.)."

A Juilliard graduate, Mr. Himy began piano studies at age six, giving his first concert at age 10. He was guest soloist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at age 15, and at 19 he made his National Symphony Orchestra debut under Hugh Wolf going on to win numerous competitions and awards including the Gold Medal at the 1988 World Piano Competition in Cincinnati, the Kosciuszko Chopin Prize in New York, and top honors in the 1991 Milosz Magin International Competition in Paris. Eric Himy began piano studies at age six, giving his first concert when he was 10. He was guest soloist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at age 15, going on to win numerous competitions and awards including the Gold Medal at the *1988 World Piano Competition* in Cincinnati, the *Kosciuszko Chopin Prize* in New York, and top honors in the *1991 Milosz Magin International Competition* in Paris.

His recordings include an all-Ravel CD for Ivory Classics about which the *BBC Music Magazine* April 2003 wrote: "If you want Ravel's two big piano cycles, *Miroirs* and *Gaspard de la Nuit*, on one disc, I have no hesitation in recommending this. As for the *Miroirs*, I have never heard the five pieces done better" and Paul Turok of the New York Times wrote: "Pianist Eric Himy's name is hardly a household word among music lovers, but if he plays other composers as well as he plays Ravel, it deserves to be." He also recorded the *Rhapsody in Blue* in an all-Gershwin CD which features brilliant Gershwin transcriptions of his own and those of Earl Wild. *Classics Today* 2005 wrote: "There's no denying Himy's virtuosic flair, this is a fascinating disc."

Two CDs of Mozart and Schumann (picked by *BBC Music Magazine* as CD of the month: December 2007) were released in 2006 on the Centaur label. Two more CDs of Debussy and Liszt, recorded on the exclusive Steingraeber & Sohne piano, were released in Fall 2008. *Classics Today* 2009 wrote: "Himy's big, luscious sonority and splendid ear for tone color suit Debussy's keyboard aesthetic to perfection with marvelous textural control in his effective transcription of the *Prélude à l'après-midi d'une faune* and the other selections are intriguingly spacious, luxuriant, and soft-grained." Himy's Liszt CD is also highly praised by the same *American Record Guide* critic (March/April 2009): "shows an artist willing to avoid the ordinary."

Himy studied biochemistry and music at the University of Maryland, and received a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School in New York, having studied with Thomas Schumacher, Adele Marcus and Josef Villa. He was featured on the cover of the 2006 May/June issue of *Clavier* and in *Musical Opinion* May/June 2007. For the '06-07, '07-08 seasons he performed more than 70 concerts worldwide including Morocco where he performed two concerts and was seen on National TV. Mr. Himy was invited by the Bernstein family to celebrate the 90th anniversary tribute to Leonard Bernstein in a Gala concert at the 2008 Lukas Foss Music Festival in the Hamptons. In 2010, he performed on MPR for the Chopin 200th anniversary and also at the 2010 Marienbad Chopin Festival in the Czech Republic. In addition he has performed 30 concerts in Brazil, Puerto Rico, (Bayreuth), Germany, France, Malta, Morocco and all over the United States.