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### President's Piano Series

Dan Tepfer

*Chapman University*

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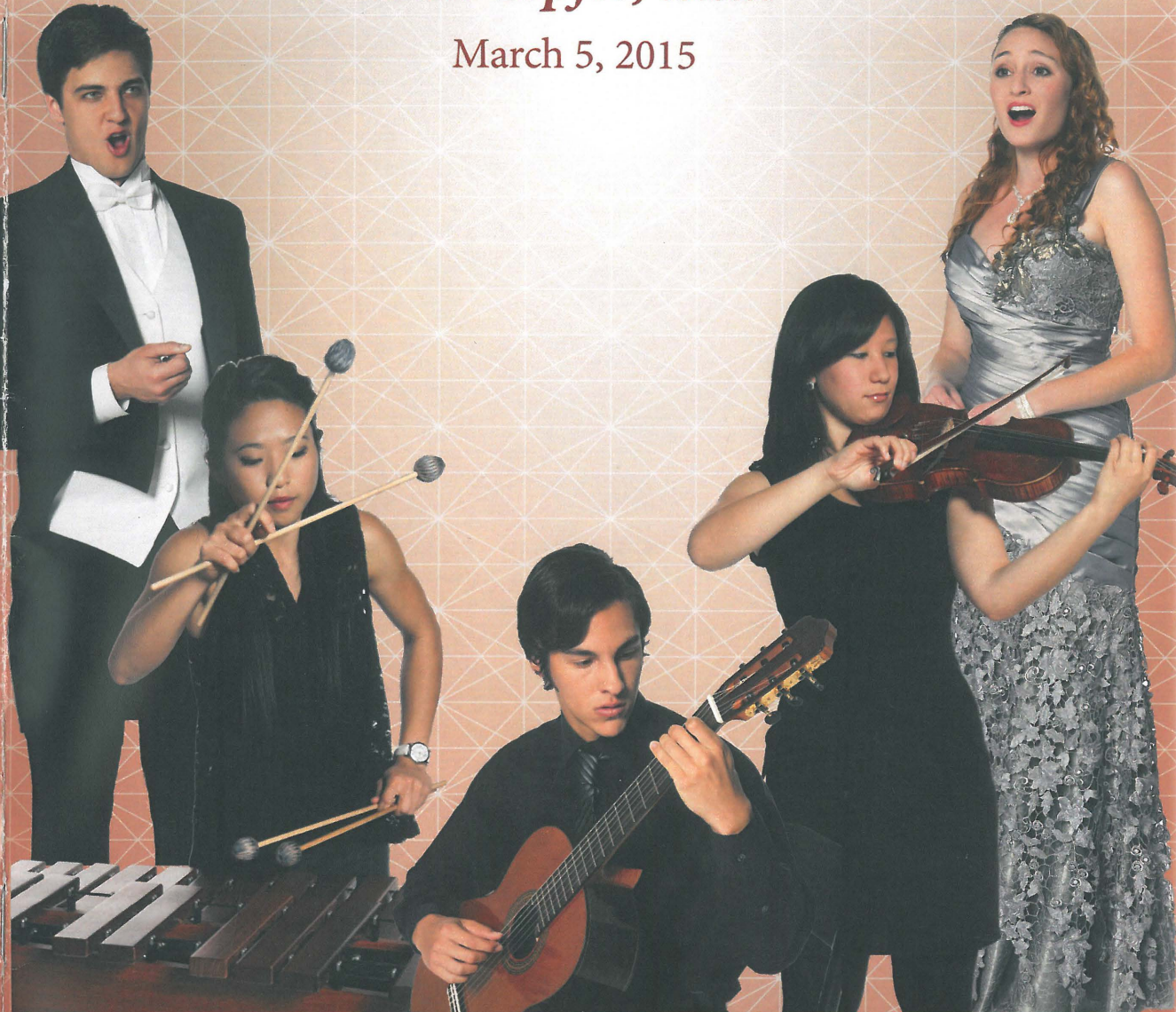
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# PRESIDENT'S PIANO SERIES

*Dan Tepfer, soloist*

March 5, 2015



 **CHAPMAN**  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS

*Spring 2015*

# SPRING 2015 calendar highlights

## february

February 5

### The President's Piano Series

Eduardo Delgado, *soloist*

February 6

### William Hall Visiting Professor in Recital

Jeralyn Glass, *soprano soloist*

February 19-21, 26-28

### The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Thomas F. Bradac

February 27

### Faculty Recital

Rebecca Sherburn, *soprano*

with Louise Thomas, *piano*

## march

March 5

### The President's Piano Series

Dan Tepfer, *soloist*

March 13

### The Chapman Orchestra: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Daniel Alfred Wachs, *Music Director and Conductor*

Angel Vázquez-Ramos, *Music Director*

Michael Nehring, *Director*

## april

April 2

### The President's Piano Series

Abbey Simon, *soloist*

April 9-11

### Concert Intime

presented by Chapman student choreographers

April 9-11, April 16-18

### Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

Directed by Gavin Cameron-Webb

April 10

### University Choir & University Singers in Concert

Stephen Coker, *Conductor*

April 24-26

### Opera Chapman presents: The Elixir of Love

by Gaetano Donizetti

Peter Atherton, *Artistic Director*

Carol Neblett, *Associate Director*

## may

May 2

### Chapman University Wind Symphony

Christopher Nicholas, *Music Director and Conductor*

May 6-9

### Spring Dance Concert

presented by Chapman student choreographers

May 8

### University Women's Choir in Concert

Angel Vázquez-Ramos, *Director*

May 16

### Sholund Scholarship Concert

Pl 1: Original stuff

2: Goldberg Variations Variation by JS Bach

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College of Performing Arts

1. Pearl Repeal by him

2. ~~RRB~~

↑ by?

3. Solar ~~March~~

3. Billy Jean - Michael Jackson

4. All the things we are ~~we are~~

4. Back at it attaya - him

5. One down two to go - him

6. Subconsciously - Dan Tepfer & Lee Kunitz

7. All I heard was nothing

Intermission

in Goldberg Variations - Bach

d. 16 - 30

1. Aria

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last: Aria

**KAWAI**  
THE FUTURE OF THE PIANO

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2. Encore????

March 5, 2015 7:30 P.M.

Salmon Recital Hall

## About the Artist

Program to be announced by the artist

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One of his generation's extraordinary talents, **Dan Tepfer** has made a name for himself as a pianist-composer of wide-ranging ambition, individuality and drive — “a remarkable musician” in the words of the *Washington Post* and one “who refuses to set himself limits” in those of France's *Télérama*. The New York City-based Tepfer, born in 1982 in Paris to American parents, has performed with some of the leading lights in jazz; as a leader, he has crafted a discography already striking for its breadth and depth, ranging from probing solo improvisation and intimate duets to trio albums rich in their melodic allure. Tepfer's acclaimed Sunnyside/Naïve album *Goldberg Variations / Variations* saw the pianist performing J.S. Bach's masterpiece as well as improvising upon it to “build a bridge across centuries and genres” as the *Wall Street Journal* put it. *New York* magazine called the album “elegant, thoughtful and thrilling,” while *DownBeat* declared it “one of the more audacious, accomplished recordings of 2011.”

Tepfer's newest release is *Small Constructions* — an album of duets with multi-reed player and Kneebody co-founder Ben Wendel, released on Sunnyside Records in March 2013. A set of songs without words, *Small Constructions* is a multi-tracked, multi-layered production featuring Tepfer and Wendel playing multiple instruments in multiple styles, extending from fresh versions of Monk tunes to pieces based on Handel and Messiaen motifs, from a standard given an artful makeover to originals that underscore the duo's melodic flair.

Tepfer, whose mother was an opera singer and grandfather a jazz pianist, began classical piano studies at age 6 at the Paris Conservatoire-Paul Dukas. The young musician took a circuitous route to a jazz career, first earning a bachelor's degree in astrophysics from Scotland's University of Edinburgh. He played extensively on the jazz scene in college and even enjoyed a brief stint as an opera conductor. After graduating in 2005 from Boston's New England Conservatory, where he completed his masters under the guidance of Danilo Perez, Tepfer moved to New York and quickly became an in-demand player, performing with such innovators as Steve Lacy, Paul Motian, Bob Brookmeyer, Joe Lovano, Ralph Towner, Billy Hart and Mark Turner. Tepfer was introduced by Martial Solal, one of his mentors in France, to Lee Konitz. The veteran saxophone luminary and the young pianist hit it off at once, sparking a partnership that would yield duet performances on both sides of the Atlantic and the 2009 Sunnyside album *Duos with Lee*. Described as “a benchmark of human potential” by *Jazz Inside*, the Tepfer-Konitz album embodies the notion of jazz as an artistic exchange across the generations, comprising mostly freely improvised pieces.

The *Village Voice* described Tepfer's *Goldberg Variations / Variations* this way: “In a ballsy move that resounds with an unabashed yen for balance, the insightful pianist concocts a freeprov ditty for each of Bach's most famous miniatures. On the classical side, the 60 tracks are a blend of grace and power. On the jazz side, they're built with daring and élan. It's easy to respect both.” The prelude to Tepfer's Bachian explorations was his solo *Twelve Free Improvisations in Twelve Keys*

## About the Artist

(DIZ, 2009), an engaging, absorbing album rooted in some of his earliest musical explorations. Considering the contemplative reveries of this pianist, *DownBeat* said: “Tepfer has the ability to disappear into the music even as he's making it.”

Tepfer's first two trio albums — *Oxygen* (DIZ, 2007) and *Before the Storm* (DIZ, 2005) — saw the pianist in league with bassist Jorge Roeder and drummer Richie Barshay, longtime confreres with close rapport. Allying high instrumental finish to tight arrangements, the albums ranged from Tepfer's irresistible, ever-lyrical originals to ingenious versions of John Coltrane's “Giant Steps” and Joe Henderson's “Inner Urge” — and Michael Jackson's “Billie Jean.” It was such music-making that led *Time Out London* to say: “Tepfer is among the most accomplished and imaginative of the new wave of players emerging across the pond. He specializes in a rippling style that builds complex melodic layers of ideas... A piano star.”

For his third trio album — *Five Pedals Deep* (Sunnyside, 2010) — Tepfer convened a new, galvanizing partnership with bassist Thomas Morgan and drummer Ted Poor. Whether on originals of great beauty by Tepfer (including some solo interludes) or covers of a Jacques Brel tune and “Body and Soul,” it was the sound of surprise that the pianist was after with this album. According to *The New York Times*, Tepfer's *Five Pedals Deep* “lays out something like a personal manifesto\’85 Mr. Tepfer unfurls his lyricism in great silvery arcs.” *All Music Guide* described the album as “inventive” and “intense,” while *Stereophile* simply judged it “beautiful.” *All About Jazz* singled out Tepfer's tune “I Was Wonderin’ ” for its brand of playful sophistication, with “its hints of swing, rock, and even classical\’85 there simply to service the nuanced shading of the piece.”

Tepfer's playing — whether performing with Lee Konitz at the Village Vanguard or leading his trio at the Jazz Standard, going solo with his complete *Goldberg Variations / Variations* at New York's Le Poisson Rouge or playing in an all-star Bud Powell tribute at Birdland — is always a mix of the gorgeous and the vivacious, lyricism balanced with swing, freedom with cohesion. *The New York Times* has called him “a pianist of exceptional poise who is drawn to the deeper currents of melody.”

All-around, Tepfer is “one of the moment's most adventurous and relevant musicians,” according to *New York* magazine. He was voted a Best New Artist in *JazzTimes* in 2010 and a Rising Star in *DownBeat* in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Among his awards are the first prize and audience prize at the 2006 Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition, first prize at the 2006 East Coast Jazz Festival Competition, and first prize at the 2007 competition of the American Pianists Association. He has been named a Cultural Envoy of the U.S. State Department, with travels to Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Czech Republic. He has also lectured and led master classes from London to Warsaw to Seoul. Tepfer was commissioned by the Prague Castle Guard Orchestra to compose a concerto for symphonic wind band and improvising piano; the kaleidoscopic result, *The View from Orobena*, had its premiere at the Prague Castle in 2010.

Tepfer will have a new trio album out on Sunnyside in early 2014. The pianist is also going into the studio to record a duo album with bass great Gary Peacock, and in a collaboration further afield, Tepfer is teaming with young singer Yanet Valdes for sessions in Cuba with Bata drums.

# Marybelle and Sebastian P. Musco Center for the Arts

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Thank you for joining us for the spring 2015 President's Piano Series. On behalf of our faculty, staff and students, I am grateful to all the members of our College of Performing Arts family for the support that allows us to continue to present great educational opportunities like the one you are about to see.

Tonight's performance is another example of our commitment to providing our students with experiences that take them outside the traditional classroom and that hone their artistic sensibilities. Our students graduate with more training, more experience and more professional opportunities to launch their careers in the performing arts and performing arts education.

Preparing this next generation of performers and artists takes the support of all of us who are passionate about the performing arts and who value its presence in our lives. As a supporter of the arts, you have a crucial role to play to ensure the success of the College of Performing Arts and the students who are at the heart of all we do. Your financial support allows the College of Performing Arts to provide the kind of educational and performing opportunities critical to our students' growth into artists like the one performing for you this evening. Please join our community of loyal alumni, parents and community partners devoted to developing the talents of the next generation of artists with a gift to the Fund for Excellence.

The Fund for Excellence enables College of Performing Arts initiatives that enhance our students' experience. Your gift to the Fund for Excellence has a tremendous impact on all of our programs by directly supporting:

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- Scholarships and travel funds for our student touring ensembles and conferences.

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I hope you enjoy this evening's performance, and I look forward to seeing you again at our performances throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Merrill, Dean

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