

OREGON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

AT SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Tutunov Series presents Polish pianist Krystian Tkaczewski performing Chopin, Bach, Tchaikovsky, and Rachmaninov in concert at SOU

(Ashland, OR). The Tutunov Piano Series will feature Polish-American pianist Krystian Tkaczewski on Friday, December 6, at the Southern Oregon University Music Recital Hall in Ashland.

Presented by the Oregon Center for the Arts at Southern Oregon University, the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., in-person and live-stream is available for purchase at <https://sou.universitytickets.com>

Highly acclaimed "Polish Virtuoso," Krystian Tkaczewski has built a distinguished international career, performing across the U.S., Asia, and Europe. His notable debut at Carnegie Hall in April 2007 marked a major achievement.

Anthony Aibel, critic for *New York Concert Review*, praised Tkaczewski for his "elegance, deep musical insight, and passionate performance," noting his "powerful technique" and remarkable interpretations. His renditions of Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev were particularly praised, while his performance of Szymanowski was described as "exquisitely shaped," with beautiful dynamic contrasts and shading. Aibel also emphasized Tkaczewski's natural connection to the music of Poland and his hometown of Tarnow.

Tkaczewski serves as the artistic director of the Connecticut Chopin Foundation and the Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford. In addition, he founded and directed several other prestigious piano competitions, including the Paderewski International Piano Competition in Farmington, Connecticut, and the Krystian Tkaczewski International Piano Competition in Busko-Zdrój, Poland. In addition to numerous scholarships, awards, and accolades, he received the prestigious "Extraordinary Ability in Arts" permanent residency in U.S. as one of a small percentage of those who have risen to the top in their fields of endeavor.

"This is our second attempt to bring this fabulous pianist to Ashland as he had to cancel his previous visit due to illness," Alexander Tutunov said. While I usually have a long and personal connection with many of my guest pianists, Mr. Tkaczewski's recordings touched me so much that I simply had no choice but to invite him to share his great talents with our audience."

The Friday evening program will open with J.S. Bach and Ferruccio Busoni's "Ich ruf zur dir, Herr Jesu Christ" followed by Chopin's Scherzo in E Major. Next up is Tchaikovsky's "October" from Seasons Opus 37a followed by Rachmaninov's Sonata in b flat Minor. After the intermission, Tkaczewski will return to perform an all second half Chopin – including four movements of Chopin's "Mazurkas," "Ballade" in G Minor, then the lovely "Waltz" and close with "Andante Spianato" *and* Grand Polonaise.

"I absolutely love the way Kristian plays Chopin's music, the audience is in for a real treat," Tutunov said. "He will not disappoint! His Chopin sounds as if the composer himself is playing it, so spontaneous and sincere. A breath of fresh air, in the grand style."

Tickets for the Tutunov Piano Series are available in-person at the OCA Box Office Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6:00 p.m., on the SOU campus. Reserved seats are \$35 per person/\$30 for seniors. Live-stream link is \$30/household. For online tickets: <https://sou.universitytickets.com> or call the OCA Box Office at (541) 552-6348.

About the Artist:

Krystian Tkaczewski, born in 1980 in Tarnów, Poland, is an accomplished pianist and music educator. He graduated with a Master's degree in 2004 from the Academy of Music in Wrocław, Poland, and earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2014 from The Hartt School, University of Hartford, where he was honored with the Honor Regents Award and induction into the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society.

Tkaczewski has won over 25 international piano competitions in countries including Greece, Italy, Spain, the U.S., and Poland. He has performed at renowned festivals such as the Chopin Festivals in Marienbad, Gaming, and Budapest, and has been a featured soloist with prestigious orchestras like the Polish Radio Orchestra and Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his performing career, Tkaczewski is a respected educator, regularly invited to give masterclasses and lectures around the world. His presentations on interpreting Chopin's Mazurkas have gained widespread recognition.

Tkaczewski has adjudicated at numerous international piano competitions, including the Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford, the American Liszt Piano Competition in Los Angeles, and the Osaka International Music Competition in Japan.

He has been honored with several awards, including the prestigious Medal of Merit to Polish Culture from the Polish Minister of Culture and Congressional Recognition for inspiring pianists worldwide. He was named "Ambassador of Tarnów" in 2015 for promoting his hometown globally.

An active member of the Society of Polish Musical Artists, Tkaczewski is also the founder and artistic director of several international piano competitions and festivals, including the Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford and the Future Stars International Piano Competition. In 2015, he was granted U.S. permanent residency under the "Extraordinary Ability in Arts" category, recognizing his exceptional contributions to music.

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