

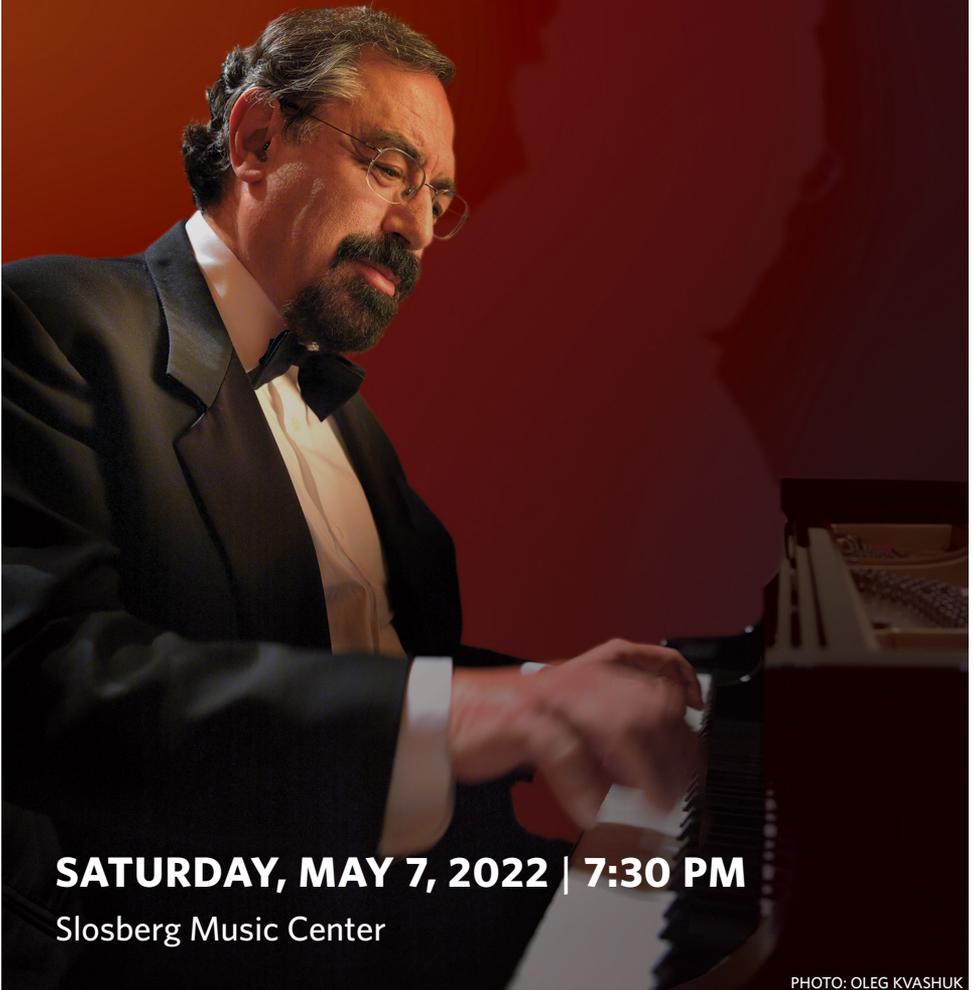
Brandeis

# **BORIS BERMAN**

## **PIANO**

A benefit concert to launch Brandeis University's

**INITIATIVE ON ANTISEMITISM**



**SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022 | 7:30 PM**

Slosberg Music Center

PHOTO: OLEG KVASHUK

## ABOUT THE SLOSBERG MUSIC CENTER

Welcome to the Slosberg Music Center at Brandeis University, home to the Brandeis Concert Series and Department of Music. Please take a moment to review the information below, and feel free to ask our concert staff members for assistance at any time. Enjoy the show!

### RECITAL HALL GUIDELINES

Videotaping, audio recording, and photography (including cell phones) are not permitted without specific permission from the management. Please turn off all electronic devices before the performance begins. No food or drinks are permitted in the Recital Hall.

### LATE SEATING

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the management, per the performer's request.

### STAY IN TOUCH

Go to [brandeis.edu/concerts](http://brandeis.edu/concerts) or find the **Slosberg Music Center** on **Facebook** for the latest concert updates. To join our e-mail list for Brandeis arts news and discount ticket offers, visit [brandeis.edu/arts](http://brandeis.edu/arts).

### RESERVATIONS

For all concerts, advance reservations are currently required and available at [brandeis.edu/concerts](http://brandeis.edu/concerts), which also includes the latest concert guidelines and regulations. If you cannot join us in person, watch our live stream at [brandeis.edu/streaming/music](http://brandeis.edu/streaming/music).

### WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Patrons in wheelchairs should email [slosberg@brandeis.edu](mailto:slosberg@brandeis.edu) or call 781-736-4867 before you arrive so we can guarantee you an appropriate seat location.

### RESTROOMS

Restrooms in the Slosberg Music Center are located on the lower level of the building. An accessible restroom is available on the main level behind the lobby.

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## ABOUT THE BRANDEIS CONCERT SERIES

Each year, the Brandeis Department of Music presents 60+ concerts, including:

**MARQUEE CONCERTS\***: An exceptional series of professional concerts that feature faculty and visiting artists, including the *Lydian String Quartet*.

**STUDENT CONCERTS**: Outstanding student ensembles and music majors perform music ranging from the Renaissance to improvisational jazz and more.

**MUSIC AT MANDEL**: The Department of Music and the Mandel Center for the Humanities present 6-7 FREE noontime concerts throughout the year.

**BRAND NEW MUSIC**: Professional and student performers showcase the work of Brandeis student, faculty and alumni composers.

\* Select Marquee Concerts are ticketed (\$5-\$35). All other concerts are FREE!

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### **PROGRAM**

**Opening Remarks**

**President Ronald D. Liebowitz**

**Chaconne von J.S. Bach for the Left Hand**  
from **5 Studies for Piano, Anh.1a/1** (1877)

**Johannes Brahms**  
(1833 - 1897)

**Piano Sonata No. 2** (1975)

**Valentin Silvestrov**  
(b. 1937)

**Postludium Op.5** (2005)

**~ INTERMISSION ~**

**Variations from String Sextet No.1, Op.18** (1860)

**Johannes Brahms**

**Variations on an Original Theme, Op.21 No.1** (1857)

**Variations on a Hungarian Song, Op.21 No.2** (1853-56)

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*Tonight's Steinway piano provided by*



**M. Steinert & Sons**

NEW ENGLAND'S PREMIER PIANO MERCHANT SINCE 1860

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

The artistry of **Boris Berman** is well known to the audiences of more than fifty countries on six continents. His highly acclaimed performances have included appearances with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Gewandhaus Orchestra, The Philharmonia (London), the Toronto



Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and the Royal Scottish Orchestra. A frequent performer on major recital series, he has also appeared in important festivals, such as Marlboro, Bergen, Ravinia, Nohant, and Israel Festival, to name a few.

Born in Moscow, Boris Berman studied at Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with the distinguished pianist Lev Oborin and graduated with distinction as both pianist and harpsichordist. He performed extensively throughout the Soviet Union as a recitalist and appeared as guest soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Moscow Philharmonic and the Moscow Chamber orchestras.

In 1973, Boris Berman left a flourishing career in the Soviet Union to immigrate to Israel. He quickly established himself as one of the most sought-after keyboard performers, as well as one of this country's more influential musical personalities. Presently, he resides in USA.

Boris Berman has been the Founding Director of the Music Spectrum concert series in Israel (1975-84) and of the Yale Music Spectrum series in the USA (1984-1997). These concert series were hailed by the critics for the inventiveness of their programming.

Mr. Berman is an active performer of chamber music. He had appeared in numerous concerts and festivals with such artists and groups as Misha Maisky, Heinz Holliger, Aurele Nicolet, Shlomo Mintz, Gyorgy

Pauk, Ralph Kirshbaum, Frans Helmerson, Claude Frank, Alexei Lubimov, Peter Frankl, Natalia Gutman, Tokyo Quartet, Vermeer Quartet, The Netherland Wind Ensemble and many others.

A dedicated teacher of international stature, Boris Berman has served on the faculties of the world's finest schools, such as Indiana (Bloomington), Boston, Brandeis and Tel-Aviv universities. Currently, he heads the Piano Department at Yale School of Music. He also conducts master classes throughout the world. In 2005, he was named a Honorary Professor of Shanghai Conservatory; and in 2013, a Honorary Professor of Royal Danish Conservatory in Copenhagen. In 2017, he was given a honorary title of "Specially-appointed Professor" by China Conservatory in Beijing.

Mr. Berman's ability to recognize and commitment to nurture young talents are obvious reasons for him being invited to join panels of jurors of various national and international competitions, such as those in Leeds, Dublin, Beijing, Shanghai, and the Artur Rubinstein Competition in Tel-Aviv.

In the field of recordings, Mr. Berman's acclaimed releases on Philips, Deutsche Gramophon and Melodia labels were followed upon with 2 CDs of all piano sonatas by Alexander Scriabin for the Music and Arts label and a recital of Shostakovich piano works (Ottavo recordings), which received the Edison Classic Award in Holland, the Dutch equivalent of the Grammy. The recording of three Prokofiev Concertos with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Neeme Jarvi conducting (Chandos) marked the beginning of an ambitious project of recording the complete Prokofiev solo piano works. The first pianist ever to undertake this task, Mr Berman has released it on nine Chandos CDs to great critical acclaim. In addition, Chandos has issued Mr. Berman's recitals of works by Debussy, Stravinsky, and Schnittke, as well as chamber music of Janacek, and - together with Orchestre de la Suisse Romande under Neeme Jarvi - Concerto by Stravinsky.

Berman's most recent discography shows the breadth of his repertoire: a

disc "Debussy for Children" (Ottavo); two releases of works for prepared piano by John Cage (Naxos), which was named the Top Recording by the BBC Music Magazine; the Grammy-nominated Piano Quintets of Shostakovich and Schnittke with Vermeer Quartet (Naxos); and, quite unexpectedly, a recording of Scott Joplin's Ragtimes (Ottavo). In the Naxos collection of complete Sequenzas by Luciano Berio, Berman plays Sequenza IV for piano. For the recording of Brahms Sonatas with the cellist Clive Greensmith (Biddulph label) he used a 1867 Bechstein piano. Most recently French label Le Palais des Degustateurs released Boris Berman's recording of Brahms's Klavierstücke and Brahms's chamber music CD with Ettore Causa and Clive Greensmith.

In 2000, the prestigious Yale University Press has published Boris Berman's "Notes from the Pianist's Bench". In this book, Professor Berman draws on his vast experience as a performer and a teacher to explore issues of piano technique and music interpretation. The book has been translated to several languages. Mr. Berman is often invited to give lectures on these subjects in various universities and conferences around the world. In November, 2017 Yale University Press has published the newly revised version of the book electronically enhanced with audio and video components.

In the spring of 2008, Yale University Press has published Boris Berman's new book "Prokofiev's Piano Sonatas: A Guide for the Listener and the Performer". This book complements, and is based on, his highly praised recordings of this repertoire.

In 2011, Shanghai Publishing House has published a new bi-lingual edition of the scores of Prokofiev's piano sonatas, revised and edited by Mr. Berman. Based on manuscripts and first editions, this is the most authoritative edition of this repertoire available.

In 2021-22, Boris Berman is performing and teaching in Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the USA.

## VALENTIN SILVESTROV: IN THE NEWS

*An excerpt from the March 30 edition of **The New York Times**\*\*:*

As Russia's war against Ukraine enters its second month, Valentin Silvestrov, Ukraine's best-known living composer, has become a musical spokesman for his country. And like millions of Ukrainians, he has been turned into a refugee by the conflict: Over three days in early March, he and his family made their way by bus from their home in Kyiv to Lviv, and from there across Poland to Berlin, where he is now sheltering.

"We're more or less OK," Silvestrov, 84, said in a video call last week. But he added that he remains in shock about the war.

"I don't know how we lived to see this," he said.

Silvestrov's subtle, consoling music has taken on new significance for listeners in a war-torn country. "Putin's bombardments of Kyiv have killed and destroyed people, houses and music," his friend Constantin Sigov, a professor and book publisher, said by phone from that city. "But with some kind of unbelievable sense of hearing, Silvestrov has realized how they might be resurrected."

Born in Kyiv in 1937, Silvestrov made his name in the 1960s with avant-garde scores that challenged Soviet aesthetic norms by hovering between austere modernism and eclectic polystylism. The finely textured contrasts and sharp outbursts of his Symphony No. 3, "Eschatophony," attracted attention from Western experimentalists; the influential composer and conductor Bruno Maderna led it at Darmstadt, a West German contemporary music hotbed, in 1968.

\*\* *Read the full article:*

Schmelz, P. (2022, March 30). **Ukraine's Most Famous Living Composer Is Now a Refugee.** *The New York Times.* [www.nytimes.com/2022/03/30/arts/music/valentin-silvestrov-ukraine-war.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/30/arts/music/valentin-silvestrov-ukraine-war.html)

## Join Brandeis in the Fight Against Antisemitism.

Tonight's performance marks the launch of Brandeis University's new **Initiative on Antisemitism**. This initiative aims to serve as a critical resource to higher education; it will assist university leaders better understand antisemitism, minimize the emergence of antisemitic incidents and behaviors on their campuses, and share best practices for addressing the impact of antisemitic acts when they do occur.

Please consider supporting this important endeavor. For your convenience, there are many ways to make a gift to Brandeis:

### Online

Please visit [giving.brandeis.edu](https://giving.brandeis.edu) to access our secure online-giving form.

### By Phone

Call 781-736-4000 or 800-333-1948 (toll-free).

### By Mail

Please include the purpose of your donation and send to:

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