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Guest Artist Recital Series: Samuel Gingher, Piano; April 13, 2023

Samuel Gingher

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**Illinois State University
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

Guest Artist Recital Series

Samuel Gingher, *Piano*

**Kemp Recital Hall
April 13, 2023
Thursday Evening
5:00 p.m.**

This is the one hundred and forty-sixth program of the 2022-2023 season.

Program

Please silence all electronic devices for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

8 Scherzi capricciosi, Op. 555 (1839) Carl Czerny
No. 1 in A Minor, molto Allegro (1791-1857)
No. 2 in D Minor, molto Allegro
No. 3 in E Major, Allegro vivace
No. 4 in C Minor, Presto agitato

Ballade No. 2 in B Minor, S. 171 (1853) Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

- brief pause -

8 Scherzi capricciosi, Op. 555 (1839) Carl Czerny
No. 5 in A Major, molto Allegro (1791-1857)
No. 6 in B-flat Minor, Allegro vivace
No. 7 in B-flat Major, Allegro vivace e con fuoco
No. 8 in B Minor, molto Presto

Review of Scherzi capricciosi, Op. 555 by Gottfried Wilhelm Fink
Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung, December 1839, No. 50

These capricious *Scherzos* are dedicated to Mr. F. Chopin in a friendly way, though it is suggested right from the start that another intention prevails. And so it is truly. They are not for students, just as little for some dilettantes, only for those who know how to enjoy Chopin's manner, especially in the harmonic passages and in striking rhythmic combinations, and who know how to cope well with today's Scherzo. Such movements usually look easier than they are, especially if the character of the performance is upheld. The 3/4 measure has the speed of $\text{♩} = 96$, also 100 and 120, the lowest is 84. Strong and dexterous playing is required if these scherzos are to be effective, which they can be. In any case, they are to be counted among Czerny's remarkable works, quite different from the majority of his compositions, as cannot be otherwise in such reproaches. In short, they deserve the attention of aficionados of musical Scherzos of a new kind.

-English translation by Max Bushell

Biography

Dr. Samuel Gingher currently serves as Assistant Professor of Practice at Northern Arizona University, with previous faculty appointments at Millikin University (2014-2021), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2015-2016) and Bradley University (2015). His research interests include classical piano improvisation pedagogy and the discovery and performance of rare masterworks. Dr. Gingher's world-premiere recordings of piano trios by Carl Czerny (with Sun-Young Shin and Benjamin Hayek) and four-hand piano fantasies (with Pei-I Wang) can be heard on the Naxos label.

Dr. Gingher has been the winner of several competitions and recipient of notable awards, including the Krannert Debut Artist Award, first prize in Brevard Music Festival's International Solo Piano Competition, first prize in WVU's Intersection between Jazz and Classical Solo Piano Festival Competition, the 21st Century Piano Commission Competition at UIUC, and concerto competition winner at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra Young Artist's concerto competition in Georgia, to highlight a few. He has performed and taught in piano and chamber music festivals in North Carolina, Michigan, Illinois, California, West Virginia, Austria and Switzerland, and has played in a variety of new music, chamber and jazz groups. Dr. Gingher was the keyboardist in Urbana-Champaign's local jazz group, *The Almost "A" Quintet* for many years. Dr. Gingher is an active member of MTNA and has served as a clinician and adjudicator at conferences in Illinois, New Mexico and Arizona.

Dr. Gingher has additional experience as a composer, arranger and freelance audio/video engineer, having served as recording engineer for albums on Naxos, Centaur, MSR Classics, Pacific Media and Albany labels. Dr. Gingher received his DMA in Piano Performance and Literature, MM in Piano Pedagogy and MM in Piano Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and BM in Piano Performance from UNC-Chapel Hill. His former principal piano teachers include Timothy Ehlen, Thomas Otten, Edmund Paolantonio and Constance Kotis.