

Acclaimed Israeli Pianist Daniel Gortler in Concert at the Jewish Museum December 18

Jewish Museum

Rarely Performed Works by Clara Schumann and Compositions by Johannes Brahms and Robert Schumann Highlight Their Complex Relationships

New York, NY – The Jewish Museum will present acclaimed Israeli pianist Daniel Gortler in concert on Thursday, December 18 at 7:30pm. Mr. Gortler, who has delighted audiences and critics with his performances around the world and received praise for his technical mastery and musical ingenuity, will perform works by Johannes Brahms (1833–1897), Clara Wieck Schumann (1819–1896), and Robert Schumann (1810–1856). The program selections by Clara Schumann include seldom-performed compositions highlighting her relationships with the two other composers. A highly regarded Schumann interpreter, Daniel Gortler's latest recording of Robert Schumann piano solo works was released as a double CD album on Romeo Records and has received enthusiastic critical reviews. *Fanfare Magazine* called the recording "imaginative and interesting" and said "he gets to the heart of the music by combining an alert, musically precise reading with a remarkable feeling for rubato, and ...he definitely has something to say about them."

Tickets for the December 18 concert are \$18 general; \$15 students and seniors; and \$12 Jewish Museum members. Further program and ticket information is available online at TheJewishMuseum.org/calendar or by calling 212.423.3337. The Jewish Museum is located at Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street, Manhattan.

The recital program will include:

Clara Schumann – 3 Romances, Op. 21

Dedicated to Johannes Brahms

Written in 1853 and 1855

Andante

Allegretto, *Scherzato* zu Spielen

Agitato

Robert Schumann – Davidsbündlertänze, Op. 6

(Dances of the League of David)

Dedicated to Clara Wieck Schumann

18 pieces for piano composed in 1837

Intermission

Clara Schumann – Romance Nr. 3, Op. 11, Moderato

Dedicated to Robert Schumann

Written in 1838–1839

Johannes Brahms – Variations and Fugue on a Theme by G.F. Handel, Op. 24

Dedicated to Clara Schumann and presented to her on her birthday

Written in 1861

Davidsbüdlertänze, Op. 6 is widely regarded as one of Robert Schumann's greatest achievements and as one of the greatest piano works of the Romantic era. This and other early piano works by Schumann were substantially influenced by his relationship with Clara. The opening theme is based on Clara Schumann's (then Wieck) *Mazurka, Op. 6, No. 5*.

Johannes Brahms' *Variations and Fugue on a Theme by G.F. Handel, Op. 24* is one of the summits of his entire keyboard output, showing him at the height of his powers.

Robert Schumann and Clara Schumann have earned a distinct place in the annals of Western music. As a couple with a two-career marriage – he as a pioneering critic and a great composer, and she as one of the leading concert pianists of Europe and also a fine composer – they were renowned in their time. Clara was one of the few pianists of her generation to perform music from memory. In addition, not only did she promote her own compositions, but she also introduced the works of other major composers, including Bach, Scarlatti, Beethoven, Schubert, and Schumann. She was the first to publicly perform any work by Brahms.

Johannes Brahms was an influential and popular composer and pianist who spent much of his professional life in Vienna, Austria. Brahms greatly impressed and was befriended by both Robert and Clara Schumann when he was only 20 years old. Brahms and Clara had a very close and lifelong relationship. Clara wrote in her diary, "that good Brahms always shows himself a most sympathetic friend."

Robert Schumann's *Davidsbüdlertänze, Op. 6* is the music used in Israeli artist Dani Gal's short film, *Wie Aus Der Ferne (As from Afar)*, on view at the Jewish Museum through February 1, 2015. Gal's new video work examines the relationship between Simon Wiesenthal, an architect and Holocaust survivor who devoted his life to hunting Nazi criminals, and Albert Speer, Hitler's chief architect and close confidant. Speer initiated a correspondence with Wiesenthal in 1975 in an effort to accept responsibility for his war crimes. Based on letters the two men exchanged in the late 1970s, *Wie Aus Der Ferne* illustrates Gal's use of documentary materials to create historical narratives through cinematic imagery, and reflects his interest in the relationship between memory and history as well as perceptions and interpretations of the past. Concert ticket holders will be able to view the Dani Gal video installation prior to the performance.

Daniel Gortler has performed as soloist with orchestras around the world, including the Berlin Radio Symphony, the Bavarian Radio Symphony, NDR Symphony, North-West German Philharmonic, Bochum Symphony, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, as well as the Houston, San Francisco, New World, Atlanta and San Jose Symphony Orchestras. In addition, he has also performed with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra as well as all other orchestras in his home country of Israel. Recent highlights include his debut with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, a debut-recital at Wigmore Hall in London and tours in South Korea, Japan, and Turkey. In the United States, Gortler has performed recitals at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Symphony Space in New York, Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the 92nd Street Y, the Morgan Library,



New York University, and Rockefeller University. Mr. Gortler replaced Murray Perahia on very short notice, performing the Schumann Piano Concerto with the San Francisco Symphony under conductor Valery Gergiev. Daniel Gortler has also collaborated with such esteemed conductors as Zubin Mehta, Christoph Eschenbach, and Michael Tilson Thomas, among many others. He participated in a video recording of Mark Neikrug's *Through Roses*, collaborating with Pinchas Zukerman.

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About the Jewish Museum

Located on Museum Mile at Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street, the Jewish Museum is one of the world's preeminent institutions devoted to exploring art and Jewish culture from ancient to contemporary, offering intellectually engaging, educational, and provocative exhibitions and programs for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum was established in 1904, when Judge Mayer Sulzberger donated 26 ceremonial objects to The Jewish Theological Seminary as the core of a museum collection. Today, the Museum maintains a collection of over 30,000 works of art, artifacts, and broadcast media reflecting global Jewish identity, and presents a diverse schedule of internationally acclaimed temporary exhibitions.

The Jewish Museum is located at 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street, New York City. Museum hours are Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, 11am to 5:45pm; Thursday, 11am to 8pm; and Friday, 11am to 4pm. Museum admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$12.00 for senior citizens, \$7.50 for students, free for visitors 18 and under and Jewish Museum members. Admission is Pay What You Wish on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm and free on Saturdays. For information on the Jewish Museum, the public may call 212.423.3200 or visit the website at TheJewishMuseum.org.

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